Directions ...

For LFL's Frontline March-April 2025



Directions is sent bi-monthly to all of Lutherans For Life's Frontline—State Federations, Life Chapters, Life Teams, Life Advocates—with Bible studies and articles on leadership, faith in action, fundraising, news and notes, and facts and stats.



This edition of Directions includes ...

LFL Job Board: Executive Director

A Bible Study: Sanctity of Life in Leviticus

Let's Meet ... Rev. Scott Licht

Life Project: Marches for Life

Life Project: 1-2-3 Cards



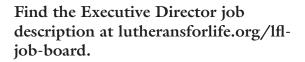


LIFE lutheransforlife.org/resources/journal

Lutherans For Life Job Board

Executive Director

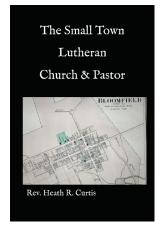
After nearly a decade as Executive Director of Lutherans For Life, Pastor Michael Salemink will soon transition to a new vocation of service to the Church. While the details will become public once final, we want to make the most of our time preparing for a smooth and productive succession, including the opportunity for Pastor Salemink to assist in orienting the next Executive Director.



Please send resumes by March 1, 2025, to Rev. Scott Licht (CFO/COO) at slicht@ lutheransforlife.org. If you have any questions, please direct those to Rev. Licht as well.







Resource Recomendation: The Small Town Lutheran Church & Pastor: A Concise Pastoral Theology for Pastors & Boards of Elders

From the author, Rev. Heath R. Curtis: "This book is for pastors who are taking a call or serving in small town America. And it's for boards of elders (or any other church leadership) helping their pastor thrive in their small town congregation. If you are a small town native like I am, I hope that you will enjoy comparing notes and trying to examine yourself and your community from a slightly different viewpoint. If you are serving in a small town as someone who grew up in a different culture (a city boy, a kid from the suburbs, a guy who grew up truly isolated on a working ranch, or as a missionary's kid), then this book is especially

for you. Whether you are reading to compare notes on a topic you love or you are looking for a survival guide for what is to you a foreign mission field, I aim to give you straightforward assessments of what small town ministry is all about. I'll be honest and I'll try to be fair. But I can't promise to be unbiased: I love these communities. I'm really glad I'm from a small town (McCook, Nebraska) and that my kids are too (Worden, Illinois)."

This book can be purchased through Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Small-Town-Lutheran-Church-Pastor/dp/B0DQY41XMK.

Bonus Link: Find a two-part interview with Pastor Curtis at Issues, Etc. (issuesetc.org).







If you have projects you would like to share or questions to be answered, email info@ lutheransforlife. org or call the LFL national office at 888.364. LIFE (5433) or 515.382.2077.

Monday, April 14, 2025 • 7:00-8:00 p.m. CT | 8:00-9:00 p.m. ET https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83528669881 | Meeting ID 835 2866 9881 | Passcode 753127

The Life Team at Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn, Illinois—Marlene Rahe – Life Team Leader—will share details about their special project called 1-2-3 Cards. It's as easy as 1-2-3! 1. Pick up a card. 2. Write a little note. 3. Drop it in the mail. That's it! Easy peasy! Come learn how you can start this card ministry in your own congregation.

Dave Probst, LFL's Director of Development, will share information about our upcoming 2025 Step Up 4 Life fundraising campaign and give an update on our growing ministry efforts at Lutherans For Life. Learn how you can affirm the value of all human life while participating in our Step Up 4 Life campaign from May 11-June 24. Once again, there are a variety of ways to participate. You may host a congregational 4 Life Day, plan a Frontline Step Up 4 Life Event, get a team together to Step Up 4 Life, or make a direct donation to LFL. Dave will highlight



vital resources and materials that you can use to successfully Step Up 4 Life and support the incredible ministry endeavors of LFL in 2025.

Virginia Flo, LFL's Director of Volunteer Relations, will give us an update on their activities and future plans.





Life Quotes 2025

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

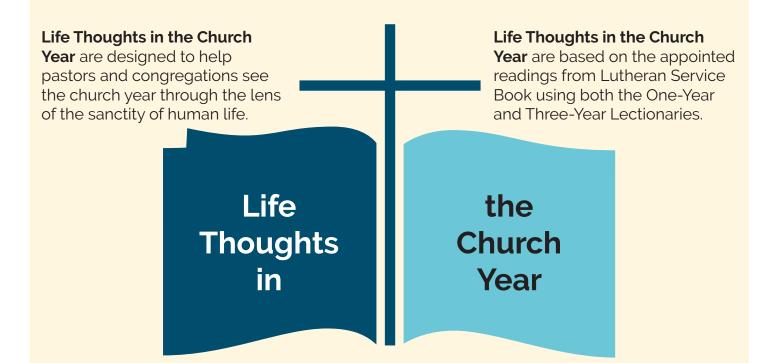
Life Quotes are quotations on life issues—many from LFL resources and publications—for use in weekly congregational bulletins. You are also free to use the quotations in your monthly newsletter.

The quotes are dated but could generally be used any time.

Life Quotes are available at lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-quotes.

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Free Downloadable Resources!





lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-thoughts



The Lutherans For Life Volunteer Relations Team joyfully and diligently spends many hours speaking to individuals from Lutheran churches around the country—encouraging, equipping, and supporting them as Gospel-motivated voices For Life, whether as Life Advocates, Life Teams, or Life Chapters.

As an encouragement to all of you already working For Life on the Frontline, we would like to introduce to you the newest members of your Frontline community.

New Life Teams

Certified Life Teams who have completed both the Life Team Leader and Life Team Member training are:

- Messiah Lutheran Church, Lakeville, Minnesota | Life Team Leader Carrie Strauch
- Redeemer Lutheran Church, Marshalltown, Iowa | Life Team Leader Karen Frohwein
- St. Peter Lutheran Church, Hemlock, Michigan | Life Team Leader Deaconess Shirley J. Dashkevicz

New Life Advocates

We rejoice and CELEBRATE! the addition of these Gospel-motivated Life Advocates to the Lutherans For Life Frontline.

• Craig and Jeanne Ness, Trinity Lutheran Church, Traverse City, Michigan

We rejoice in and **CELEBRATE!** the addition of these new Gospel-motivated voices For Life to the Lutherans For Life Frontline. If you would like to know more about becoming a Life Advocate or starting a Life Team or Life Chapter, please contact Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations, at vflo@lutheransforlife.org. **The entire Volunteer Relations Team is here to help you!**





A Bible Study: Sanctity of Life in Leviticus



Leviticus gives us a distinctly different kind of Scriptural literature. This volume reads like a record of legal proceedings or congressional legislation, what with regulations about liturgical rites and property rights, dietary restrictions and health inspections, and the like.

But it details the sacrificial system that binds the Israelites as a people belonging to the Almighty Maker. And it discloses the heart of a Father and Savior who Himself devises an atonement and forgiveness because He desperately desires to deliver humankind from the sinfulness that afflicts them.

This makes Leviticus one of the most important documents in the Old Testament. In its provisions, entire nations and generations encountered ultimate truth and love on a daily basis for more than a millennium. Best of all, it prepares history and humankind for a Lord who comes among us as a Lamb, who will spare no expense to secure the sanctity of every last human person and save them all from death.

When something breaks down and needs replacement in your household, do you tend to buy a new one, borrow a used one, or fix the old one? Can you give an example?

What was the biggest thing your parents ever gave up for you? What is the biggest thing you ever had to give up for someone else? Why did you do it? What did you learn in the process?

What disease do you fear most? Is the one you fear considered fatal, contagious, inherited, inevitable, crippling, embarrassing, or something else?

The biblical book of Leviticus commences with and concentrates on sacrifices. For what purpose does the Lord God designate these offerings (Leviticus 1:4)? What does this suggest about the heart of God? Why do these rituals usually involve animals? And why do you think the Almighty regulates them so strictly? What might we infer from this about the sanctity of human life?

Which element of animal—whether clean or unclean—does the Lord forbid consuming (Leviticus 7:26-27)? Why does He implement this mandate (Leviticus 17:11-12)? How else does He institute distance between His people and death (Leviticus 11:24, 39)? And what particular prohibition does He stipulate with regard to grieving (Leviticus 21:1-5, 11)? Why do you think our Father so jealously reserves the business of death for Himself?

What traces of death have worked their way into the life-giving process of procreation (Leviticus 12:1-5)? How does God indicate His intention to intervene and protect even the littlest of human beings (Leviticus 12:6-8)? How do the parameters for this process signify He has designed male and female distinct (12:2, 5) but equally important (12:6)?



This record of decrees takes an uncomfortable extent of interest in the marital act (Leviticus 15:16-18; 18:6-23). In what two ways do the forbidden relations (18:6-14 and 18:19-23) compromise conception? How does the injunction against child sacrifice (18:21)—which otherwise seems to belong more to a later treatment (Leviticus 20:1-5)—clarify what the Lord has in mind? How does this "life for life" principle make sense of the severity of penalties for sexual transgression (Leviticus 20:10-21)? What overall objective and blessing is He after (Leviticus 26:9)?



Divine directives disqualified persons with disabilities from the Old Testament priesthood (Leviticus 21:16-23). Similar conditions applied to the animals identified for the atoning (Leviticus 22:17-25). How does this make a statement about the entire people's uncleanness? How does it also make a greater statement about the wholeness atonement imparts? How does the Lord insist that persons with disabilities nevertheless remain precious (Leviticus 19:14; 25:35-38)?

Extended sections of this proclamation consider appointed festivals (Leviticus 23:1-43 and 25:1-22). How many total days of each year get set aside for this kind of rejoicing? What delightful message does this send about the connection between life and sharing in celebration?

Let's Meet ... Rev. Scott Licht

Hi. My name is Scott Licht. I have worked for Lutherans For Life since September 1, 2012. My title is Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Chief Operations Officer (COO) at LFL. What does that mean? As CFO, I'm responsible for the budget and for monitoring the day-to-day stewardship of all the resources of our ministry. As COO, I'm responsible for the day-to-day operations of each of our "departments" – Development, Support Services, Volunteer Relations, Word of Hope, and Y4Life.

Obviously, I don't do all of this by myself. I am blessed with nineteen wonderful coworkers who take seriously our mission to "equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life." In addition, the LFL Board of Directors provides guidance and oversight related to the policies and finances of our ministry. In preparation for this position (certainly unbeknownst to me at the time), I earned my Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Information Technology degrees at Iowa State University in 2005.

In my "spare time," I serve as pastor of a small congregation called Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church. That congregation has been in existence since June 12, 2011 (Pentecost). Shepherd of the Prairie is rostered with the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) and the North American Lutheran Church (NALC).

This vocation has opened several opportunities at LFL as well. I have been focused on expanding LFL's reach into the non-LCMS denominations and associations. This is done by exhibiting and presenting at national and district conferences as well as preaching and teaching opportunities in pulpits that could not be filled by an LCMS-rostered pastor.

Another door that God has opened through my pastorate and service at LFL is the chance to travel and serve many Lutherans in India. This past December, I completed my eleventh trip. A typical trip consists of two pastors' conferences with liferelated teaching for 50+ Lutheran congregations each, two women's conferences with life-related teaching for about 75 women each, teaching at a Lutheran seminary, homeless ministries, preaching for Advent services and Christmas programs, and living/playing with lots of kids at two orphanages.



Teaching at the Seminary in Gudipadu, Andhra Pradesh, India



We took the orphans from Tanuku to a nearby state park



And then there's my family. My wife, Sue, and I are both remarried. Between the two of us, we have five daughters ranging in age from 25 to 39. Sue and I live on an acreage outside of Huxley, Iowa, with three horses. (No, they aren't ridden anymore—they just eat and create manure for the garden.) My younger daughter has two sons who call me "Grandpa Q-Ball." (A picture of me will help you understand.) Walter will be seven (7!!!!) in July and Arlo will be four in March. They are delightful, rough-and-tumble young boys—DEFINITELY different from raising girls.

I want you all to know how much we appreciate ALL that you do in service to our Lord of Life. It is truly a privilege to serve you and to serve with you. We take very seriously the resources and mission that you entrust to us at the national level, but YOU are the ones who make things happen at the local level. There is no way that we could do this without you. God has blessed us all with different talents to work together as the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12), and I thank you for living out your vocation.





Pastors' Conference in Tanuku, Andhra Pradesh, India



We gave fabric to the widows who attend the Lutheran church in Gudipadu.





Selfies with some of the orphans in Gudipadu



Directions • March-April 2025

Annual Activity Report Update

Please note: All Life Advocates, Life Teams, and Life Chapters

We have been asked recently why the **Annual Activity Reports** (AAR) are a year behind. It's quite simple. We want each of our Frontline life ministry areas to be able to capture information for an entire year at a time, and that isn't possible until an entire year is completed. So, at the beginning of the new calendar year, we ask for new AARs to be completed for the previous year. A good comparison would be that they follow the same pattern as your taxes, only hopefully they are easier to complete.

The 2024 AARs will be posted on our website in early March, if not before, for Life Advocates, Life Teams, and Life Chapters to complete. All three will be found at the top of the webpages for each of these areas. You will find the links on the **Frontline tab** on our website for each of your types of life ministry. Be sure you select the correct one, as all three are listed on each page for your convenience.

These are so important. We cannot stress enough how much completing your form helps our overall life ministry. It is one of the only things we ask you to do if you are in one of the life ministry areas, along with maintaining your LFL annual membership to help us offset the costs to maintain our resources and services for you and your church. Here's a handy link to log in to update your membership: https://form-renderer-app.donorperfect.io/give/lutherans-for-life/donate.

Why is this so important to us? First, we want to know how you are doing. We never want to find out after the fact find that a life group ceased to function, and we didn't know there were issues. Perhaps we may have been able to help. Secondly, when you share wonderful projects or events that worked well, we want to share those great ideas with others who may use your ideas to serve the Lord at their churches. It's about sharing and helping each other. Those who have benefited from the ideas of others will attest to the rewards they have seen with the help of others like you.

Finally, it is important that we keep up on who is currently serving, not just as a leader, but as members of your groups so we can keep our records up to date and keep every active member informed and encouraged. It goes without saying that we use our insights into what is happening in the field to provide useful programs and resources you can use going forward. It helps us a lot when we read your completed AARs, and we do read them all. They are inspirational to us at LFL as we walk vicariously with you in the work you are doing. Nothing is too small or too simple in the work you do. Please share it with us.

Our database team has been working diligently to upgrade our online AAR to make it more user friendly. We hope what we provide this year will be of great help in filling out the form. We will explain that as we will notify you when we launch the 2024 Annual Activity Reports. If you struggle filling it out, please reach out to our Volunteer Relations Team. Our contact information is found at https://lutheransforlife.org/volunteer-relations. For those who would rather receive a hard copy of the AAR to complete manually, we will send it to you. Once we have announced the new AAR is available online, please look at it. You may find using the online process to be much easier than using a hard copy. If you still want a hard copy version, do let us know at that time.

We are so grateful for the work you do at your churches. God has blessed the churches you serve and LFL. We give thanks for each of you who serve in life ministry and praise the Lord for your service. We give God the glory!



Life Project: Marches for Life

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



Life Shines in Darkness was Lutherans For Life's theme for Sanctity of Life Sunday 2025. Come out of the shadows and into the shine! Rejoice as For Life Lutherans and embrace the sanctity of every human life! What better way to show the For Life message than by participating in a March for Life.

Tucson, Arizona | March for Life

This information was shared by Dr. Roni Grad, LFL board member and Life Team Leader of the Catalina Lutheran Church Life Team in Catalina, Arizona. Dr. Grad also serves as English District LCMS Life Coordinator.

On Saturday, January 25, 2025, part of the Sanctity of Life weekend and the day following the National March for Life in Washington, D.C., on January 24, approximately 50 LCMS Lutherans from around the area joined in the Tucson March for Life. The Tucson March for Life is sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tucson. The day began with a mass at St. Augustine Cathedral.

While the mass was taking place, we Lutherans met across the street in an outdoor area for a time of prayer led by our circuit visitor. We confessed our sins, remembering that we, too, are sinners in need of God's grace and mercy. Additionally, we prayed the litany, sang hymns, and received a blessing. Following the mass, participants marched 4.1 miles to Holy Hope Cemetery. We Lutherans also joined the march and grouped ourselves behind a large banner that read "LCMS Lutherans Marching For Life" and included artwork by area children. Once we reached the end of the march, we all received a closing benediction, led by our circuit visitor. Some then stayed for the Catholic Rose Ceremony at the cemetery to remember the lives of those lost to abortion.

Having received God's gifts of forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life through His divine services in our congregations, we jointly put







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on His armor (Ephesians 6:10-18) in the public square. We proclaim Christ and Him crucified for the forgiveness of sins, even those of babies still in the womb. We advocate for the sanctity of life present from the moment of fertilization and prayed that God will use us to change the hearts of the abortion-minded in our community.



Details for the Arizona March for Life on March 15, 2025

The Arizona State March for Life will take place on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at the Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza at the Arizona state capitol building in Phoenix. We will meet for Lutheran devotions at 10:15 a.m. The pre-march rally will begin at 11:00 a.m., followed by the march at noon.

The Arizona March for Life is sponsored by National March for Life. Lutherans first participated in the Arizona State March in 2023, with about 15 LCMS Lutheran participants, mostly from two congregations in Tucson and Phoenix. In 2024, the LCMS was a major sponsor, and there were about 50 Lutheran marchers.

This year, in 2025, LCMS is again a major sponsor, and for the first time, an LCMS speaker will speak during the pre-march rally! (At the time of writing, the details are still pending.) Like the Tucson March for Life, the Arizona State March For Life information is included on the LCMS Life Ministry volunteer portal (https://www.lcms-life.org). We use the LCMS 40 Prayers for Life booklet during our devotions, and the LCMS Life Ministry sends signs and caps for the event, based on the number who register online to participate.

The daily schedule of events is available at https://www.chooselifeaz.org/azmarchforlife. For more information, contact Dr. Roni Grad at roni.grad@gmail.com.

Minnesota March for Life

This information was shared by Pastor James Kroonblawd, Minnesota South District LCMS Life Ministry Coordinator, and the Messiah Lutheran Church Life Team in Lakeville, Minnesota.

Chapel Service for the Sanctity of Life

On January 22, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., a Service for the Sanctity of Life was held at Graebner Memorial Chapel at Concordia University, St. Paul. Rev. Tom Gundermann, Concordia University, St. Paul Campus Pastor, led the worship service. LCMS Minnesota South District President, Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, was the preacher. Rev. James Kroonblawd, Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church in Eagan, and Rev. Scot Missling, Bethlehem Lutheran in St. Paul, shared words of encouragement. Several members of the Concordia University, St. Paul, Y4Life Team attended the service prior to traveling to the Y4Life Gathering in Washington, D.C.

Rev. James Kroonblawd shared these thoughts, "When we started gathering as a South District for the Life Chapel service and the March, there were just a few of us attending the Minnesota March for Life. Every year, we learn that more and more LCMS members are speaking up for life within their churches, community, and in gatherings, including the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL) March for Life. It is a joy to know there are many LCMS members willing to make the effort to stand up For Life." Rev. James Kroonblawd has been the Minnesota South District LCMS Life Ministry Coordinator for the past ten years. As Life





Ministry Coordinator, he is the link between synod and the district. His role is to provide information and resources to pastors and congregations. LCMS Life Ministries set up a display table outside of the chapel. Items on the table included Life Ministry Cards, Psalm 139 wrist bands, Psalm 40:1-3 bookmarks, printed materials such as the 40 Prayers for Life, God Values All Human Life, Looking at Life in the Womb, and A Lutheran Perspective on Well-Being, as well as life-affirming signs to carry during the March for Life. Hymns to sing during the march were printed on the back of the signs. To request LCMS Life Ministry materials, contact your District Life Coordinator.



After the Life Service at Graebner Memorial Chapel, LCMS participants joined the thousands of Minnesotans for the 52nd annual MCCL March for Life at the Minnesota State Capitol Mall in St. Paul on January 22 in support of the value of every human life. The Minnesota March for Life has been held annually since 1974 on the anniversary of the legalization of abortion. According to the Minnesota Department of Health's report, *Induced Abortions in Minnesota*, *January-December 2023*, **14**,**124** unborn children in Minnesota died from abortion. Sadly, this is a 16% increase over 2022. At the March for Life, a very large fetal model display represented all those innocent lives lost to abortion in 2023.

The program was held on the capitol steps. It opened with the singing of "Amazing Grace" by Thirsty Souls. Father James Stiles, from the Church of St. Stephen-Holy Rosary shared the invocation. MCCL Co-Executive Directors Cathy Blaeser and Don Parker shared remarks and updates from the past year. "Jean Marie Davis—the director of a pregnancy resource center—powerfully shared her experience of being trafficked in 33 different states, including Minnesota, spotlighting the need for more protections for women and babies. 'Both of my children were [intended to be killed] by my pimps,' she said. 'My life was literally at the brink of death.' She visited a pregnancy resource center wanting to have an abortion, but 'heard the heartbeat of my son, and because I heard the heartbeat of my son, I now can say my son Jonah is 10 years old" (MCCL Press Release on January 22, 2025).

The program continued with an introduction of For Life Minnesota elected officals, the playing of "Taps," and the singing of "God Bless America" by SAVE THE LIVES OF UNBORN WOMEN





Thirsty Souls. Here is the link to the video of the MCCL March for Life: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFqOxx6s6ao.



The Perspective of a New Life Team

Messiah Lutheran Church in Lakeville, Minnesota, has a newly certified Life Team.

This is the first year Messiah has organized a group to attend the Minnesota March for Life. Carrie Strauch, Life Team Leader, ordered ten matching gray scarves printed with "Messiah Lutheran" in blue letters. Prior to the march activities, the Life Team and other church members met at Messiah Lutheran Church for a prayer and a blessing from Rev. Kurt Klaus. The Life Team then carpooled to the service for the sanctity of life at Graebner Memorial Chapel, where they joined up with Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church. After the chapel service, the Life Team took the tram to the March for Life at the capitol. For the majority of the group, this was their first experience attending the March for Life.

"I felt so blessed and honored to be the leader of such a huge LIFE group. We made a difference that day for LIFE, for God, for the legislators, and for every life in our state. This was my first time at the Minnesota March for Life. I can tell you already that this will not be my last march. Wow!"

– Carrie Strauch, Messiah Lutheran Church Life Team Leader



Life Project: 364 Days of Devotion

A DEVOTIONAL BOOK

364 DAYS OF

This Life Project article is about a wonderful devotional book called "364 Days of Devotion," published by Northwestern Publishing House (online.nph.net). If you wish to try something similar to the project idea on a smaller scale, LFL offers several devotional booklet options including "Christ the Life of All the Living – A Lenten Devotional Booklet" (LFL1637) and "In the Hands of God – 30-Day Devotional Booklet" (LFL1604). Both are available through Concordia Publishing House (cph.org).

The following article, posted November 3, 2023, is from a blog post derived from an email correspondence between the writer of this post and Pastor Frederic Berger of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Plymouth, Nebraska.

"What if everyone in our church family could be thinking about Jesus every single day? How awesome would that be!"

That "what if" burned in the hearts of the leaders at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Plymouth, Nebraska. They had worship services, Bible classes, and discipleship programs, but they wondered if they could be doing more to encourage their members to gather around the Word and sacraments.

The writer to the Hebrews said it best: "[Don't give] up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but [encourage] one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

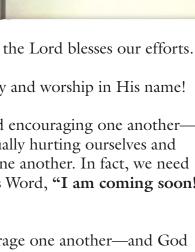
After listening to a presentation by the director of WELS Discipleship, Pastor Donn Dobberstein, the leaders at St. Paul's discovered how important it is to have high expectations for one another as Christians when it comes to corporate Bible study. Set the

bar high, push one another to meet that lofty goal, and pray boldly that the Lord blesses our efforts.

What a beautiful blessing from God that we can gather together to study and worship in His name!

Why? If we're not growing together—if we're not meeting regularly and encouraging one another we're missing out on something vital to our spiritual welfare. We're actually hurting ourselves and our fellow believers by not growing together in God's Word. We need one another. In fact, we need encouragement from others all the more because Jesus has told us in His Word, "I am coming soon!" to which we respond, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).

The members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church were invigorated to encourage one another—and God blessed their efforts. Their Sunday morning Bible class attendance rose. Even as they rejoiced, they knew there was still more work to do in encouraging their members to gather around the Word. That led St. Paul's leaders to the thought that even if someone came for worship and faithfully attended Bible class and that was the only time he or she came into contact with God's Word each week, this person could be spiritually starving him- or herself.





Busy schedules, workloads, uncertainty about where to start or what do to—these are all potential obstacles to our time spent in God's Word every day. Not to mention the devil's temptations and our sinful natures.



Realizing the challenges that their members faced, the leaders at St. Paul's wanted to do everything they could for their church family so that the Spirit would work in their hearts every day. They knew in the same way that a personal trainer doesn't just tell clients, "Go work out" (at least, not a very good one), they couldn't just tell their members, "Go read God's Word." They would need to give their congregation members a little more direction and accountability to one another.

With that in mind, the leaders decided their high expectations for one another—and their bold prayer to God—would be to get a copy of Pastor Andrew Schroer's book, 364 Days of Devotion (online.nph. net/364-days-of-devotion.html), in the hands of each of their members so they could read through it together—as a church family—in 2024.

Talk about a lofty goal!

Initially, some members mentioned that their families only needed one book to share. Gently, but firmly, the leaders at St. Paul's pushed back. They wanted their people to put the devotional in the best spot possible for each person, whether that was a nightstand, a car, a locker, or at work. They figured that if everyone in the family had a copy, that was the best chance for everyone to read it.

The members of St. Paul's leadership team chose *364 Days of Devotion* because they found it speaks to a multi-generational audience. Each easy-to-read devotion begins with a portion of Scripture, has applications, contains a daily reflection, and closes with prayer. In short, the leaders of St. Paul's thought it would have topics to get their church family talking about God's Word in their homes and community throughout the week.

As 2024 draws closer, the people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church are excited to see the work that the Holy Spirit will do through this church-wide daily Bible study.

Wherever you are, whatever your plans are for the upcoming year, keep meeting with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Keep encouraging one another to grow in the Word. Hold one another accountable. Pray boldly and confidently, knowing that the Lord works in all things for the good of those who love Him. Keep shining as lights in this dark world. And know that your Savior walks with you every step of the way.

The author, Alex Brown, is the marketing and content copywriter at Northwestern Publishing House. He has his Master of Divinity degree from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and enjoys reading, writing, and spending time in God's creation.

How did this project go? Was it successful? You can find out by reading and listening to "A Year in God's Word: The Power of Reading Together" at blog.nph. net/a-year-in-gods-word-the-power-of-reading-together.



Life Project: 1-2-3 Cards



Provided by the Life Teams at Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn, Illinois—Marlene Rahe, Life Team Leader, and Trinity Lutheran Church in Blanco, Texas—Barb Geistfeld, Life Team Leader.

Do you remember the days when you actually *hand-wrote* letters to your grandparents, your parents, your children, and your friends? Do you remember your excitement at finding a letter addressed to you in the mailbox? Perhaps it is time to revive that wonderful custom by sending hand-written notes to special people in your congregation.

The Life Team at Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn, Illinois, has a special project called 1-2-3 Cards. It's as easy as 1-2-3! 1. Pick up a card. 2. Write a little note. 3. Drop it in the mail. That's it! Easy peasy! Inspirational "thinking of you" cards are pre-addressed and stamped by one of the Life Team members and then placed in the narthex on the first Sunday of every month. Congregational members pick up the cards, write an encouraging, uplifting note in the card (the most important step), and mail it. The Team keeps a list of members' names who may be ill, recently bereaved, homebound, living in assisted care, or have some other need. Cards are also sent to caregivers for their encouragement. The pastor or other church members may suggest names to be added to the mailing list as they come up. There is a line item in their church budget for Life Team expenses, so the cost of the cards and stamps is covered.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Blanco, Texas, also has a card ministry. A Life Team member is the person responsible for sending birthday cards to the adult members of the church, but the cards are signed in the name of Trinity Lutheran Church. Church members regularly donate new birthday cards for this ministry.

Words of love and encouragement will always brighten anyone's day—and it will brighten the heart of the sender as well. Let's keep those cards and letters coming as we spread joy in the name of Jesus.





SAVE THE DATE Step Up 4 Life 2025 May 11, 2025 through June 24, 2025

Step Up 4 Life is Lutherans For Life's annual Walk for Life fundraising campaign which provides a novel twist to the traditional Walk for Life.

Participate as an individual, couple, or part of a team. As you walk, run, roll, stroll, or partake in other activities (biking, dancing, participating in water aerobics, rolling in a wheelchair, rocking in a rocking chair, or even fishing), you can raise awareness of the ministry efforts of Lutherans For Life and encourage others to donate to your campaign.

- The fifth annual **Step Up 4 Life** will be held May 11 (Mother's Day) through June 24 (the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* anniversary).
- Help us reach the campaign goal of \$85,000 to fund the mission of LFL—to equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life! Set your fundraising goal, sponsor a participant, or provide a donation to LFL!
- Participate as an individual, couple, or create a team with your Life Team, Life Chapter, or State Federation. Build your team with family, friends, congregation members, co-workers, or neighbors. Designate a Team Captain to lead your team to the finish line!
- The Charity Footprints online technology will track steps for individuals and teams, and you can also use it to compete for the most steps taken during the event. You can track your workouts with the Charity Footprints app or manually input activity from your fundraising



page online. The more money you donate or raise, the more points you earn on the platform, beginning May 11.

- Once you register for **Step Up 4 Life** online, you will be given a link to your fundraising page. Reach out to church members, neighbors, family, friends, or co-workers to join your team or sponsor your **Step Up 4 Life** fundraising efforts. The more money you donate or raise, the more points you earn on the platform. Share your fundraising page on social media to increase donations! (Use the QR code.)
- Online registration opens April 1. Registration is free, but the suggested donation is \$100 for adults and \$30 for children and youth. Register at STEPUP4LIFE.ORG/2025.
- **Step Up 4 Life** Kits are downloadable and available to order and to print. The **Step Up 4 Life** Kit is filled with resources to support your team (registration forms, bulletin announcements and inserts, posters, fundraising tips, and a Bible study).
- Questions? Check out the resources STEPUP4LIFE.ORG/2025, email stepup4life@ lutheransforlife.org, or call 888.364.LIFE (5433).

Step Up and Become a Step Up 4 Life Sponsor!

Sponsors play a key role in the Step Up 4 Life fundraising campaign. Please prayerfully consider participating as a campaign sponsor to assist our continual efforts to change hearts and save lives!

Gospel Motivation (\$250+)
Gospel Transformation (\$500+)
Gospel Proclamation (\$750 and more)

If you are interested in supporting **Step Up 4 Life** as a **Life Sponsor**, please contact Dave Probst, Director of Development at dprobst@lutheransforlife.org.



Life Shines in Sunday School

by Pastor Michael Salemink

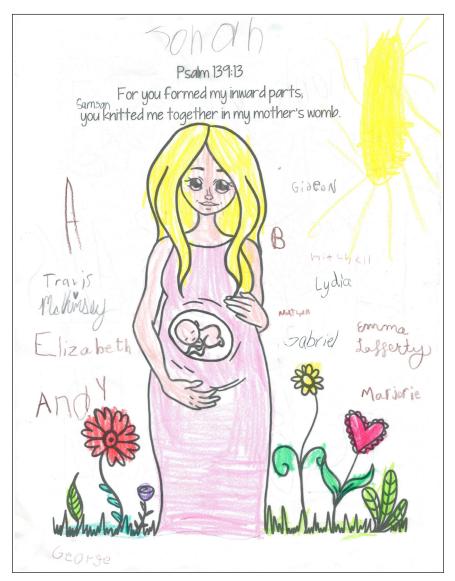


Is thirty bucks enough to buy the sanctity of every human life? I mean, thirty bucks is thirty bucks, right? Well ...

I recently enjoyed a visit to a congregation in Wisconsin. We celebrated Sanctity of Human Life Sunday together. After sharing a "Life Shines in Darkness" sermon during the divine service, I joined the congregational Bible study to give a presentation about Lutherans For Life. The church's children gathered with the grown-ups for an opening prayer and hymn in preparation for departing to their respective classrooms. And it turned out that they had an even better presentation.

The Sunday School students there have begun a sanctity of life club. When we had concluded our singing, they invited me to accompany them to the front of the fellowship hall. One of the young ladies handed me a purple folder. It held thirty dollars cash, all ones but for a couple fives, paperclipped inside. The pocket contained a single sheet of paper: a picture colored by another of the students, featuring a smiling expectant mother. All the rest of them had added their signatures to it in finest pencil cursive.

I'll tell you, that's perhaps the most substantial offering we've received all year. "And Jesus called his disciples to him and said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box" (Mark 12:43). This gift came with no anger or arguing, no forcing or controlling, no misogyny or inequality or self-righteous condemnation. Its scraps of paper embodied gratitude and wonder and joy and hope that appreciate receiving every neighbor as a blessing to share life with, no matter what age or appearance or ability.



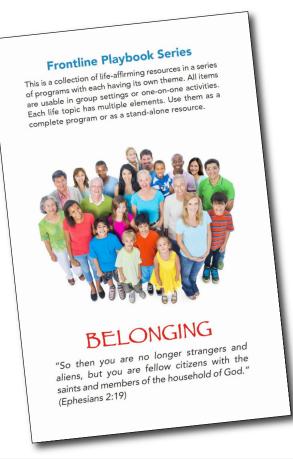
Of course, these little Christians didn't just give it to me. Like Magi of old, they reverently and gleefully gave it to us. That means they gave it to you, in response to your own faithfulness and enthusiasm,



because you have raised their generation in the Word and the will of the Lord. They gave to the gestating babies and the elderly ladies, to their mothers and husbands and loved ones, to everyone vulnerable or victim to cultural pressures that would have them use death as a solution to suffering. They gave to the mission and the message, the ministry and the movement that inspires and excites them. And they gave it to their dear Heavenly Father, emulating Him who has shown His own heart for all human lives in creating, redeeming, and calling them special and priceless. They gave believing and rejoicing that the Incarnate and Crucified One never fails to deliver forgiveness and resurrection to everlasting life in the new and never-ending creation kingdom.

Lutherans For Life makes a difference thirty dollars at a time. We probably tally more contributions each year of thirty dollars or less than any other amount. More than three thousand of you came forth alongside the Wisconsin Sunday school kids in 2024. The Holy Spirit magically, miraculously, magnificently multiplies each one into Gospel-motivated courage and compassion. In the hands of the Almighty Maker, thirty bucks is more than enough to speak God's truth and show the love of Christ Jesus. In the hands of the Lord God, thirty bucks is more than enough to bring about interactions and relationships in congregations and communities across the country.

Yep—five loaves and two fishes add up to right about thirty bucks. And once Immanuel Messiah gets ahold of them, that'll change hearts and save lives every time. How delightful to have a place in this fellowship!



CONDUCT YOUR OWN LIFE EVENT

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

Recorded Speeches
Topical Devotions
Life Topic Facts
Supportive Activities

It's FREE and available NOW!

Follow the link and click on FRONTLINE PLAYBOOK RESOURCES – Belonging

lutheransforlife.org/frontlineplaybook/

Life Topics in Belonging



Rev. Michael Salemink "Blessed as a Gift"



Michelle Bauman
"God Chose You
to Belong"



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



Rev. Steven & Stephanie Cholak "Blessed in Longing"



LAMBs - Mercy Blankets



Although our world might tell us otherwise, children are truly a blessing. Lutherans For Life would like to celebrate children—especially those families with a lot of them! Through the skillfulness of some LFLers in Ohio and elsewhere, along with the Miami Valley Life Chapter, a project called "LAMBs" (Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets) was established.

We would like to celebrate families that are awaiting the birth of their fourth or more child by gifting them with a homemade blanket. Do you know such a family in your Lutheran church? If so, please contact Virginia Flo, our Director of Volunteer Relations, at vflo@lutheransforlife.org so that she can arrange for this gift to be sent to them. (Alternatively, you can fill out the form below and send it to Belén Fry of the Miami Valley Life Chapter.)

Thank you for helping us care for your neighbor in this way!

"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward" (Psalm 127:3).

LAMBs – Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets

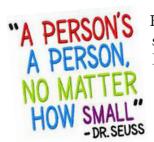
Do you know a family in your congregation who is having its fourth or more child? Wouldn't it be nice to give them a homemade blanket in celebration of this new life? Simply fill out this form and the Miami Valley Lutherans For Life Chapter, and other Lutherans from the state of Ohio, will ensure that a blanket made with love will be sent directly to the expectant mother anywhere within the continental United States as well as Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. There are no strings attached. As the Body of Christ, we want to use this as an opportunity to share the mercy that our Savior Jesus Christ first showed us on the cross.

chare are more, and car carrer of		
Your Name/Address:		
City, State, Zip:		
Your Congregation:		
City, State, Zip:		
Mother's & Father's Names:		
Baby's Gender: Boy Girl		
Mother's Address:		
City, State, Zip:		
Please send completed forms to:	Belén Fry Miami Valley Life Chapter 1505 Tipperary Court Middletown, OH 45042-3038	



"He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms" (Isaiah 40:11a).

Owen's Mission

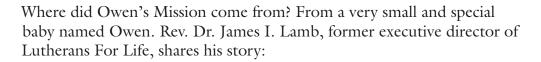


Horton the elephant was right! The Bible agrees! In fact, the Bible says more: A person's a person created by God (Psalm 139:13-14), a person redeemed by Jesus (Galatians 3:13), and a person the Holy Spirit wants to call to be His child (1 Timothy 2:4), no matter how small!



Owen's Mission is a very special project of Lutherans For Life. The goal of this project is to honor Jesus

by presenting a set of *Touch of Life* fetal models to every Lutheran elementary and high school in the country. We want students to understand the God-given value of each life from the moment of conception. We want students to be motivated by what God has done as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier that gives value to life. We want students to value themselves and to value others as persons because of this God-given value.



"I held my little grandson Owen in the palm of my hand. He died at 21 weeks during prenatal surgery to remove a large tumor. The nurse brought him to our son as we waited in the recovery room for Owen's mother. I find it difficult to describe what I felt when I was able to hold him. I had held the 20-week *Touch of Life* fetal model in my hands hundreds of times in front of students from preschoolers to seminarians. Holding Owen revived in me the reality behind those models. I will never hold them in the same way again."



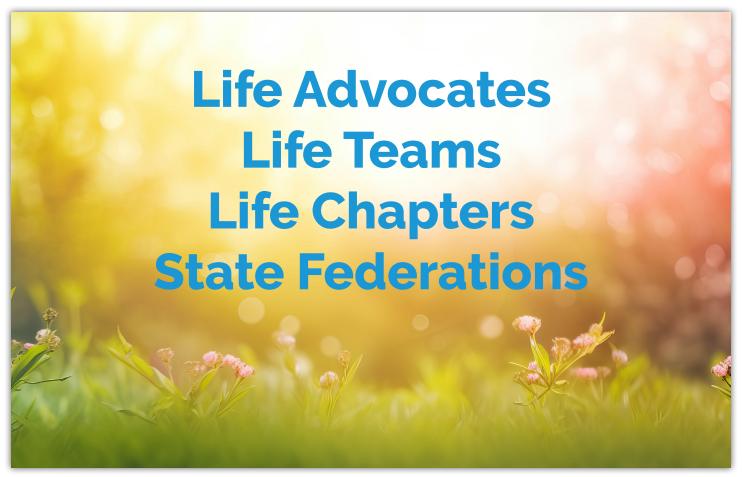


As Owen's grandpa, Dr. Lamb wanted to do something special to remember Owen, honor Jesus, and help others understand the value God gives to even the smallest of lives. With the help of Owen's family, *Owen's Mission* was born. We are training facilitators to present these fetal model sets along with a DVD message from Dr. Lamb.

You can support Owen's Mission by encouraging your Lutheran elementary or high school to have an Owen's Mission presentation! Call 888.364.LIFE (5433) or email info@lutheransforlife.org.

lutheransforlife.org/owens-mission





VOLUNTEER RELATIONS is a Lutherans For Life team dedicated to serving the Frontlines, including Life Advocates, Life Teams, Life Chapters, State Federations, pastors, and congregations. They assist them in starting and maintaining a strong, healthy, and vibrant life ministry within their congregations and communities.

Our team is here to share ideas, to mentor, and to walk alongside you as a life ministry consultant and partner.

Virginia J. Flo

Director of Volunteer Relations 651.333.0337 vflo@lutheransforlife.org

Michele Hartshorn

Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations 612.816.6194 mhartshorn@lutheransforlife.org

Barbara Lane Geistfeld, DVM

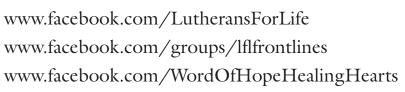
Volunteer Relations Associate 830.935.3415 (H) | 830.388.8640 (C) bgeistfeld@lutheransforlife.org





Lutherans For Life Online

- Check out word-of-hope.org and y4life.org.
- Be sure to "Like" and follow LFL on social media! See links below:



twitter.com/ForLifers • instagram.com/lfly4life • www.tiktok.com/@lfly4life www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife

• Join our Frontline Facebook group for Life Chapters, Life Teams, and Life Advocates: facebook.com/groups/lflfrontlines. The group includes an idea exchange and is a place to connect with other Frontline volunteers.



• LifeDate is a great way to share the For Life message with your congregation. Order LifeDate in bulk quantities at no charge. (Donations for shipping cost will gladly be accepted.) Call 888.364. LIFE (5433) to order. (lutheransforlife.org/resources/journal)



• *Life News* is available each month to download and print. *Life News* is a free monthly bulletin insert with life-issue news and more. Go to lutheransforlife.org/media/life-news.





Available in App Stores











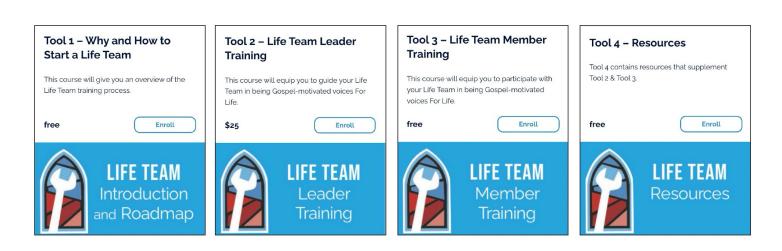


INTERESTED IN STARTING A LIFE TEAM AT YOUR CHURCH?

It just got easier, making it possible for you to be a trusted, certified Life Team Leader or Life Team Member!

Here are the simple steps:

- Talk with your pastor about starting a Life Team at your church.
- Contact Volunteer Relations about next steps.
- Use the link provided to Volunteers Academy to register for the Life Team Leader Training for only \$25!
- Engage other members at your church to be Life Team Members.
- Life Team Member Training is FREE!



Register at:

volunteersacademy.lutheransforlife.org

Questions? Contact Volunteer Relations:

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





The Basics of Lutherans For Life

Our Mission: Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life Our Vision: Every Lutheran congregation upholding the God-given value of human life and influencing society to do the same

Structure and Relationships

A local Life Chapter is a local organization that has been chartered by National Lutherans For Life. The Life Chapter is formally associated with and subject to, but not a part of, the corporation known as Lutherans For Life, Inc.

A Life Team is a group of dedicated church members forming a For Life group within one congregation to serve under the auspices of the local congregation.

A Life Advocate is an individual working to support the church's pastor in keeping the flow of educational information in front of the congregation on a regular basis. Life Teams and Life Advocates do not qualify for the remittance program.

A State Federation is an organization that has been chartered by Lutherans For Life, Inc., in a state where there are at least five chartered Life Chapters. In a state where a State Federation exists, the Life Chapters also become affiliated with the State Federation. This occurs automatically at the same time a Life Chapter becomes chartered by Lutherans For Life, Inc. These relationships are basically the same whether or not the Life Chapter is incorporated. Thus, Lutherans For Life consists of a network of individual entities formally associated with each other.

Membership Information

All officers of State Federations and Life Chapters and Life Advocates must be members in good standing of Lutheran congregations and members of National Lutherans For Life. Membership contributions are divided among the national organization, State Federation, and local Life Chapter if it is chartered.

Life Chapters that wish to include a membership form in newsletters or correspondence are asked to maintain the form and information provided by the national office. The local Life Chapter may not establish its own membership program since LFL has a "unified membership" program. When sending a membership form to the national office, make sure the Life Chapter name and number, if chartered, is written on the form in the space provided. This will ensure that the State Federation and local Life Chapter receive the proper remittance payment.

Membership Classifications

Annual Membership

 Annual members join by making a membership donation accompanied by a completed copy of the membership form (or by joining online).

Sponsor Membership

- Sponsor members pledge to contribute a certain amount each month and to pray regularly for Lutherans For Life.
- Sponsor members receive a monthly letter from the executive director.
- Sponsor members are asked to renew their monthly pledge each year as part of the annual membership drive.

The Remittance Program of LFL

All MEMBERSHIP donations are shared with the chartered State Federation and/or local Life Chapter to which the particular members may belong. The membership donations are divided as follows:

Annual Memberships:

- 20% goes to the local Life Chapter (If there is no local Life Chapter, this 20% goes to the State Federation.)
- 20% goes to the State Federation
- 60% remains at national

Sponsor Memberships:

- 1/12 goes to the local Life Chapter (If there is no local Life Chapter, this 1/12 goes to the State Federation.)
- 1/12 goes to the State Federation
- 10/12 remains at national



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

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

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Rev. Michael Brockman, Kansas – Oakley
Rev. Paul Clark, Michigan – Fowler
Mike Albers, Missouri – St. Louis
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Bob Saeger, Nebraska – Waco
Rev. Dennis Norby, North Dakota – Valley City
Jill Johnsen, South Dakota – Wessington

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

info@lutheransforlife.org 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.

Since 1973: 65,464,760 abortions in America

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







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

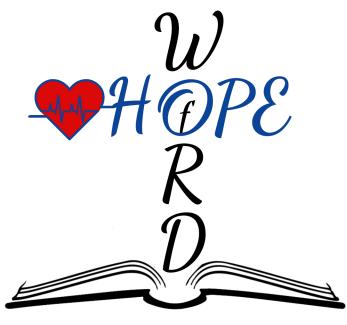
Lutherans For Life has, since 1979, upheld the value of life affirmed by the resurrected Christ. We educate congregations on life issues with a Gospel perspective, equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

Find out more and become a member today!

lutheransforlife.org



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE



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

Call 888.217.8679 or go to www.word-of-hope.org.

Word of Hope is confidential and caring.

Word of Hope is a ministry of Lutherans For Life.

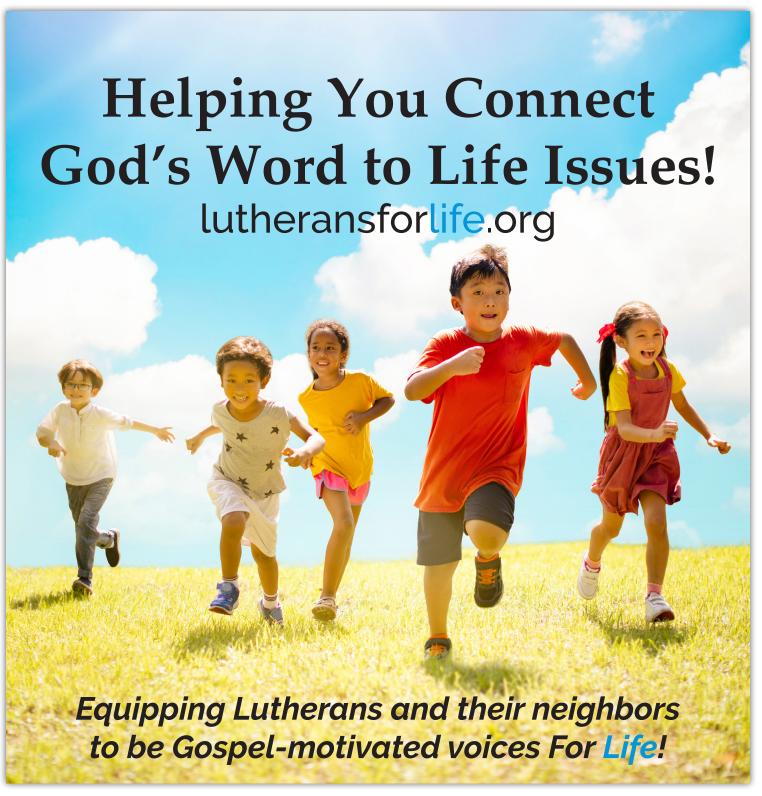
I'm 4Life ... Now what?





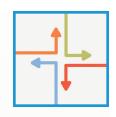


Become a Y4Life Messenger • y4life.org









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

lutheransforlife.org/resources/store

- God Bless Mothers 2025
 Mother's Day Bulletin Insert
- God Bless Fathers 2025 Father's Day Bulletin Insert
- The Annunciation and St. Joseph, Guardian of Our Lord Bulletin Insert and Additional Resources
- Domestic Violence and the Sanctity of Life

- Angels and the Sanctity of Life
- Self-Harm A Word of Hope Brochure
- Gender and Sexuality
- Birth Control What's out there, and is it for me?

 A 4Life View of Anxiety and Worry







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Join Us in 2025!

Lutherans For Life National Conference September 24-26, 2025

Great Wolf Lodge Colorado Springs, Colorado



