

LIFEDATE

Spring 2025
from
LUTHERANS FOR LIFE



For Such a Time

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LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

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

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For Such a Time as This

by Pastor Michael Salemink



"And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this? (Esther 4:14b).

Frodo: "I wish it need not have happened in my time."

Gandalf: "So do I, and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

Are we living in the bad times or the good times? Have we come to the best of times or to the worst of times?

Perhaps both. Human selfishness has wrought considerable wickedness in our world. Sins such as our own have brought great evil upon us. Death threatens to run rampant over our land, and our people have made treaties with its demons in order to have a hand in their own demise. Its grip has grown already too great for any of us—or even all of us together—to arrest. By abortion and assisted suicide, the Ancient Enemy nibbles and gnaws at either end of our race's lifespans. It convinces us to constrict both our own worth and our neighbor's to comparisons of popularity, to competitions of property, and to contests of potency. And we have nothing more than words with which to mount any kind of resistance to this intangible adversary.



But the words we have are not our own. They exert an authority that does not come from us. These words of Almighty God's truth impart an answer that commands the hearts of humankind. These words of Incarnate Christ's love apply an antidote that transforms the very times themselves. Even in the hearts of mortals they constitute life-saving words that implement repentance and reliance. Even on the lips of sinners they amount to life-giving words that enact reconciliation and resurrection. Gospel words of forgiveness, faith, and fellowship forge the former times into the fullness of time from this time forth and forevermore.

So let us rejoice, and let us exclaim. For the words of eternal life pertain to us, and they prevail in our time.

When the worst of times witness the Heavenly Father's victory, they become the best of times. Blessed are we to behold it, and to have a hand—that is, a voice to be heard—in such a time as this!

The Right Place | The Right Time

by Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life



“Oh, thank you, God!” you say as you are in just the right spot to catch the baby as she rolls off the bed. Or maybe a friend is distraught and needs someone to talk with, and you just happen to call right when he needs you. Or a teacher calls to get some information about abortion and assisted suicide, and you have just the right resources to give to her.

Have you ever been in the right place at the right time? Of course you have!

“For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14-15).

If you are reading this, I’m assuming you are a life-affirming Lutheran. Just like Mordecai tells Ruth, God has put you in your country, your state, your city, your church, and your family. You are personally in a place to change minds at the dinner table, at church, at your job or school, and on social media.

Can we keep silent when babies are killed in the womb? Can we keep silent when people with disabilities and people near the end of their lives are not valued and even made to think that we would all be better off if they were dead?

We believe that God created each life. He sent Jesus to redeem that life and the Holy Spirit to call that life into the one true faith. No, we cannot be silent! Who knows whether you have come to your country, state, city, church, or family for **“such a time as this?”**

However, for all kinds of reasons, there are many life-affirming Lutherans and other Christians who are silent. What does God’s Word say?

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ” (Colossians 3:23-24).

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

“Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet” (Isaiah 58:1a).

We **should** be daily proclaiming the good news that life in all its forms is valuable because God loves life!

How do you lift up your voice like a trumpet? You can become a member of your church’s Life Team (or start a Life Team!), join with other Life Teams to form a Life Chapter, put out a display of life-affirming materials in your church (including LFL membership brochures), support a local pregnancy help center, and make sure your church supports its seniors!

These are a few ideas to get you started! Like Esther, God will bless *your* efforts!



On Immigrant and Citizen Neighbors

by Pastor Michael Salemink



It appears immigration has everyone's attention. Not only our continent but a number of other nations worldwide are feeling its stresses. Much of the public dialogue (and discord!) threatens to undermine the sanctity of life. One perspective accuses others of exploiting expatriates for political gain. Another perspective claims others deny dignity to the itinerants because of discriminatory anxieties. The contentious tone and the talking past one's counterparts lead many to feel like disengaging entirely.

But Christians ought to be considering the matter as well. After all, the Scriptures say a great deal about travelers, visitors, newcomers, outsiders, and persons of foreign origin. Most importantly, both immigrants and citizens come to us as neighbors. Each embodies blessed gifts and privileges as a human life created, redeemed, and called precious by our Lord and God.

Neighbors, of course, present us with opportunities for fellowship and obligations toward welfare. The needs of citizen neighbors and the needs of immigrant neighbors sometimes do come into tension. Our sacred vocations may press us to prioritize now the one and now the other but always to remain cognizant of balancing attention to both and all as best we can and for the common good.

To aid in that honorable enterprise, Lutherans For Life's Board of Directors offers the following official position statement (on pages 6-7).



Lutherans For Life Official Position Statement on Citizen and Immigrant Neighbors

WHEREAS, Almighty God blessed humankind upon creation with the command to “fill the earth and subdue it” (Genesis 1:28); and

WHEREAS, St. Paul the Apostle declares that “he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place” (Acts 17:26); and

WHEREAS, God can work good through relocation, as migration features prominently in the historical narratives of the Holy Scriptures, and the Lord constructs relationships with His people, circulates the knowledge of His name, and carries out His process of salvation through it; and

WHEREAS, God works good as well through residence and citizenship, as He appointed and invited Israel to have both the privilege of possession and the responsibility for protection of the Promised Land; and

WHEREAS, the Son of God departed from His heavenly homeland to abide among us, but His own people rejected Him (John 1:9-14), and He became an exile (Matthew 2:13-15) and sojourner (Matthew 8:20); and

WHEREAS, our Savior commissioned apostles to all nations (Matthew 28:19-20) and the Pentecost miracle constituted the Church out of a diversity of peoples, languages, and cultures (Acts 2:5-8) so that we may encounter such heavenly fellowship both in the familiar and in the foreign; and

WHEREAS, the new creation will bring together an innumerable multitude “from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages” (Revelation 7:9) to inhabit a single city; and

WHEREAS, sinfulness makes us all aliens, outsiders, exiles, and hostiles to the Lord God’s kingdom and clan (Ephesians 2:12); and

WHEREAS, Christ Jesus reconciles prodigals to the Heavenly Father and Gentiles with Jews (Ephesians 2:19) so that His Gospel unites without regard to geographic or ethnic distinctions; and

WHEREAS, Christians yet remain expatriates and pilgrims everywhere in this world because our citizenship resides in the age to come (1 Peter 2:11; Philippians 3:20), and we long for that better country (Hebrews 11:13-16) while we occupy current territories only temporarily and possess present property only provisionally; and

WHEREAS, the Lord’s power extends to the ends of the earth and His presence accompanies His people in every place (Jeremiah 23:23); and

WHEREAS, “God is not a God of disorder” (1 Corinthians 14:33) but has a keen concern for observance of laws, and He Himself has appointed the governing authorities to protect and provide by enacting and enforcing safety, fairness, and freedom on His behalf (Romans 13:1-7), so that defiance of the legitimate laws of the land disobeys His holy will; and

WHEREAS, the Scriptures abound with encouragements generously to engage and compassionately to serve displaced persons (Exodus 23:9; Psalm 145:9; Zechariah 7:10; Hebrews 13:2); and

WHEREAS, the Scriptures also command attending to and assisting one’s own countrymen as they are often the nearest neighbor (Leviticus 25:35-43); and

WHEREAS, disregard for effective regulation of immigration is resulting in significant exploitation and suffering for persons on the move, legal permanent residents, and citizens; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Lutherans For Life urges embodying the Gospel by receiving all neighbors as gifts and privileges, whom God creates, redeems, and calls as precious, no matter their appearance, their origin, or their entrance or legal status among us; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Lutherans For Life commends demonstrating the sanctity of every human life and reflecting the divine hospitality we ourselves have received by taking note of persons on the move, assuming the best of them, approaching and interacting with them, speaking kindly to and about them, and befriending and attending them; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Gospel-motivated voices For Life also arrange and offer humanitarian aid and material assistance to these neighbors as opportunities arise; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Lutherans For Life affirms respect for and obedience to the legitimate laws, authorities, regulations, and procedures of the land as well as concern for maintaining order and safety that balances relationship responsibilities both to natives and newcomers and protects the common good; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Lutherans For Life opposes every injustice against both citizens and immigrants and advocates participating in public discourse and democratic processes to revise inadequate or unjust regulations or procedures whenever necessary; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Lutherans For Life takes no official position with regard to any particular regulation or policy proposal.

ADOPTED 18 February, AD 2025

lutheransforlife.org/life-issues/position-statements

A Lot Like Esther

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life



Worry and fear. Esther knew them well.

Okay. I admit it. I'm a lot like Esther. I'm guessing you are, too. And not like the brave, triumphant Esther we see at the end of her story in the Old Testament. No, I find myself able to relate to the other Esther—the one whose first responses are worry and fear—more often than I'd like.

Perhaps you've felt a kinship with her, too. Perhaps that kinship began with a career change. Or an unexpected pregnancy. Perhaps it took root when your beloved pastor announced he was taking a call. Or when your father received a cancer diagnosis.

Worry and fear. They're often bedfellows. And Esther knew them well.

How can I be certain? Because when Esther was asked to speak on behalf of her people, when she had the chance to save them from certain death, she wavered. She came up with excuses not to do so. She reminded her cousin Mordecai that entering the King's presence without being called into it meant certain death. And Esther didn't want to die. Esther was both worried and afraid.

Can we blame her? Esther's fears were, after all, valid. Married to a spoiled, self-centered ruler who took pleasure in his power and didn't mind abusing it, Esther knew all too well what could befall her: **Shame. Banishment. Death.**

King Ahasuerus was not a man to meddle with.

Add to his temperament (his proclivity for making decisions based on emotion rather than logic) the reality that he had not called Esther into his presence in over 30 days, and we have to admit that she found herself in a fearsome situation. Their marriage was certainly not a love match. She was part of a harem. What confidence, what certainty, could she have had that she would be received by him? None whatsoever.

And that reality filled her with worry and fear.

But Esther was blessed with an uncle who knew the answer to fear and worry, an uncle who reminded her of God's promises:

*"Here are the facts," Mordecai said, "You are a Jew. The verdict applies to you as well. Whether you speak or not, God will deliver His people. **And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?**" (Esther 4:14).*

For such a time as this. Those were powerful words centuries ago, and they are powerful words today. Mordecai used them to point out the obvious: Esther was perfectly placed to uphold the lives of her people. God had brought her to this time and place to speak for them.

It's true, Mordecai's words didn't take Esther's fears away completely. She fasted and asked for prayers, and I'm guessing her knees still wobbled when she entered the courts. But Mordecai's words reminded Esther that she was not alone.

God would deliver His people. And He would be with her, too. Mordecai's words moved Esther to compassionate action. For the sake of others, she would risk shame, banishment, and death. For the sake of others, she would find a way to speak for life.

For such a time as this. Those six little words affirmed that Esther's life was not an accident. She was planned. She was placed. And Yahweh, the one true God, was working in and through her for good.

And those six little words still apply today. God has planned you for this time and place. And Yahweh, the one true God, is working in and through you for good, too.

Just like He did for Esther, God has placed you in relationships. He has given you vocations—son, daughter, husband, wife, friend, coworker, classmate—where you are perfectly placed to serve and uphold the lives of others.

It's certainly true that sometimes the time and place He brings you to can be scary. You might be asked to speak the truth in love when you know it won't be received well. It could require carrying a cross you're certain you can't bear. And it might even involve facing rejection, shame, and banishment.

But like Esther, God promises to go with you, too. For the sake of others, He strengthens you to speak for life. God stands with you when you march for the unborn, and He speaks through you when you comfort the grieving. He holds the hand of the cancer patient, kisses the feverish brow of a child, and provides a meal for the hungry man strung out on drugs because God chooses to work through YOU.

Mordecai and his cousin Esther are long gone. They have received their crowns of glory, and though their lives were short in the great expanse of time, their lives were meaningful. They were loved by God Himself, and through each of them, God loved and upheld the lives of others.

Despite their age, Mordecai's words still speak to us today, encouraging us to remember God's promises. Even if they may not take away all of our fears or worries, may they move us to compassionate action for the sake of others. May they move us to speak and act for LIFE.



The Reality of Words

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb



"If you keep silent at this time ..." (Esther 4:14a).

““When I use a word,” Humpty Dumpty said in rather a scornful tone, ‘it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less’” (Lewis Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass*).

Sorry, Humpty, words mean things. Words reveal a reality not subject to our choices. After decades of use, the reality of what abortion means has disappeared. When you lose the reality of something, you lose the foundation for meaningful discussion. Therefore, the discussion on both sides of the abortion issue deteriorates into meaningless slogans.

We choose it to be bad or good, awful or wonderful. We call it a “right” or “healthcare.” We have euphemized it so much abortion has become a euphemism of itself, detached from the reality behind it. We need a reality check. Here is the reality of what abortion is and does:

Abortion Kills Little Girls and Little Boys in Terrible Ways Before Birth

Let’s “fact check” the reality of those words.

“Abortion kills.” Embryology textbooks state that at the moment of fertilization, a new and unique human being comes into existence. In an abortion, that little human being dies. That’s the reality.

“Little girls and little boys.” The genetic code establishes our sex from the very beginning of our life. Oh, we do not look like what comes to mind when we say little girl or little boy. But we are little, and we are a girl or a boy. We just look different. That’s the reality.

“In terrible ways.” The most common in-clinic procedure is “Suction Aspiration.” A little boy or girl under sixteen weeks is sucked out of the womb with a powerful suction. After sixteen weeks, the procedure is “Dilation and Curettage” (D & C). A surgically sharp instrument scrapes the uterine lining, cutting the little boy or girl into smaller pieces before suctioning. Body parts need to be reassembled to ensure nothing is left to cause infection. For later term abortions, the method is “Dilation and Evacuation.” The abortionist uses a forceps to tear arms, legs, and head from the little torso and then remove (evacuate) them. Again, all parts must be accounted for. That’s the reality.

Increasingly, the most common abortion method is the abortion pill, a two-step procedure. The first pill effectively cuts off needed oxygen and nutrition coming from the baby’s umbilical cord. In a sense, the little girl or boy is “choked” to death. The second pill, taken later, causes contractions and delivery of the now dead little one. It is often very recognizable, the cause of much emotional stress on mom. That’s the reality.

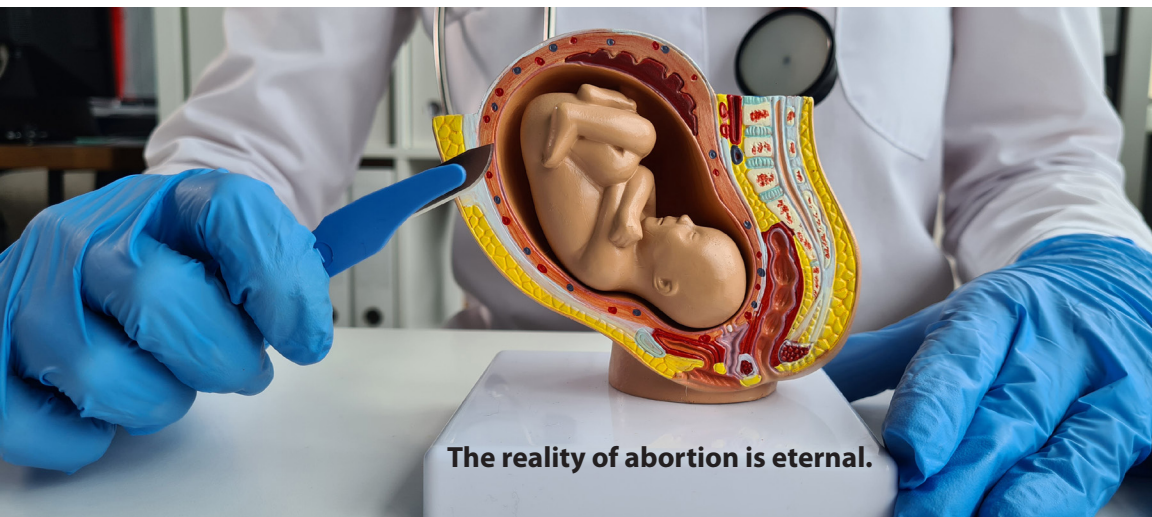
So regardless of what you choose abortion to be, that's the reality of what abortion is. If you favor abortion, please base it on reality. You favor killing little boys and little girls in terrible ways before birth. If you oppose killing little girls and little boys in terrible ways before birth, then please start talking more about this reality. Let's have meaningful discussions based on reality not on a Dumpty reality-denying, "It means what I choose it to mean."

And for you For Life Christians, there is a greater reality. Abortion kills little girls and little boys in terrible ways, children whom God knit together and hand crafted. Abortion kills little girls and little boys in terrible ways, children for whom Jesus took on humanity in a womb so that He could suffer and shed His blood for them. Abortion kills little girls and little boys in terrible ways, children whom the Holy Spirit wants to splash in the waters of Holy Baptism and call into an eternal relationship with Him. For you there is more than a biological reality behind the word abortion. For you the reality is eternal.

Before reminding Esther that she may have **"come into the kingdom for such a time as this"** (Esther 4:14c), Mordecai gave her a warning, **"If you keep silent at this time ..."** (Esther 4:14a). Heed that warning. Then rejoice in the place and time God has given you in His Kingdom. Do not be silent. You have the most positive, powerful, life-giving, and life-affirming message in the universe! It is a message of love for every sinner, i.e. everyone! It is a message of forgiveness for everyone and every sin. It is a message of the certain hope of a paradise whose reality surpasses the most beautiful of words.

Use the biological reality of the word abortion to begin discussion to share that message with your unbelieving neighbor. Do so with boldness, but gentleness, please! Use the eternal reality of the word abortion to share that message with your fellow believers. Speak the truth in love, please!

If we want to save more Trinitarian-valued lives, then we need to knock a Humpty Dumpty way of thinking about words off the wall. We need to speak of the reality behind the word abortion and use such a time as this to speak of the reality behind the Word made flesh to dwell among us and in us and for us. You have been called for such a time as this.



The reality of abortion is eternal.

The Joke Is on Me

by Deaconess Janet Nicol



I wouldn't trade this present reality for anything.

Isn't it funny how life has a way of sneaking up on us with a knowing grin? When I was a young woman, dreaming about the future was like painting a picture with bold, vibrant strokes, each one representing the energy and optimism of youth. I saw myself running after giggling grandkids, my body as spry as it ever was. Ah, the sweet naivety of it all! But here I am, a little wiser, a lot slower, and chuckling (and weeping) at the irony of it all.

Life, it seems, had a different painting in mind for me—one with softer, more seasoned hues. And while my partially artificial knees might not keep me as steady as I would like these days, I find there's a certain grace in this new version of myself. It's like discovering a new chapter in a beloved book, one that's filled with unexpected twists and turns.

This journey into the later stages of life has given me the chance to reflect on my purpose, especially through the lens of my faith as a Christian woman.

What does it mean to age with grace and dignity in a world that seems to value youth above all else?

How can we continue to serve and love our families, even when our energy isn't what it used to be?

I think perhaps there's a lesson there for all of us: that our purpose doesn't diminish with age—it evolves. Join me in exploring how Scripture helps us to realize this evolution of ourselves.

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen" (2 Peter 3:18).

"For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers" (Romans 8:29).

"Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:12-14).

What does the LORD wish us to do according to these verses? He wishes us to grow in Him (grace) by pressing forward (not living in the past) and realizing (growing in knowledge) that we are called to be sanctified (conformed to the image of His Son).

"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever" (Psalm 73:26).

"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16).

Knowing spiritual growth is key here, what do these verses help us to realize? Spiritual growth comes from the knowledge that through God's strength and promises, we have the way to guard our hearts and minds and be renewed daily.

How is your heart growing? How are you growing? Does this ever stop? Reflective questions here, but the takeaway is that our growing in Christ never stops in this life. We daily repent of our sins, believing in Christ's redemption and trusting in Him for our continued growth through sanctification.

And in the midst of this reflection, I've realized something truly precious. My grandkids, with their boundless energy and endless curiosity, see me not as an older woman, but as their grandmother, their confidante, and their storyteller, especially regarding the greatest story ever told. I serve as a mentor in the faith for those precious young ones and their friends. And I do this not just for my own grandchildren but for other youth in my community as well. Those of us older folks who have not been blessed with children and/or grandchildren can serve as mentors in the faith for other youth. This creates a connection to others and gives us elders an opportunity to share the Gospel in ways that only the Lord can make happen.

So, while the joke might be on me in terms of my youthful imaginings, I wouldn't trade this present reality for anything. It's a gift in itself, one that allows me to embrace life in all its beautiful imperfections. After all, isn't that what makes the journey so wonderfully worthwhile?

Peace be to you in Christ Jesus, my fellow aged ones in the Lord!

Deaconess Janet Nicol is Word of Hope Phone Counselor (888.217.8679).

This journey into the later stages of life has given me the chance to reflect on my purpose, especially through the lens of my faith as a Christian woman.



2025 Lutherans For Life National Conference Great Wolf Lodge, Colorado Springs, Colorado September 24-26, 2025



Save the Date! Save the Date! Save the Date!

“I praise you Lord for I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14).

Anyone who has been to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado can attest to the beauty that is often called God’s playground. Big, blue skies, majestic purple mountains, glorious sunrises, abundant wildlife—the wonders abound! Our loving Father created this remarkable area, we’re sure not only for His delight, but ours as well.

As God’s intricate handiwork is on full display in the Front Range of Colorado, especially in Colorado Springs, so too is it reflected in our national conference’s theme of **Fearfully and Wonderfully Made**.

The **Great Wolf Lodge in Colorado Springs** will be our “playground” for this year’s event. The remarkable conference space, with grand views of Pike’s Peak, is on its own level separate from the other family-friendly spaces throughout the hotel. The hotel is geared toward families and is offering very affordable rates, discounted resort fees, and complementary parking for our group. The indoor water park and playground and the self-guided scavenger hunt, along with many children’s activities, make for a perfect location for your family to enjoy during the conference. Finally, Colorado Springs in the fall is glorious! The aspen leaves are changing, the animals are moving, the weather is often perfect. There are dozens of free and very affordable activities for God’s children of all ages to enjoy while there. *The afternoons during the conference will be free for you to explore the region.* And the hotel has graciously extended the conference rates for multiple days before and after the conference for those who wish to explore the area a bit more!

We have a host of remarkable speakers who will share their inspiring testimonies and Gospel-motivated voices with us, including Mr. Jim Daly, President of Focus on the Family.

For more information including schedules, speakers, and links to the hotel and local attractions, please visit our website at www.lutheransforlife.org/conferences.



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!



Spotlight on

LIFE

LFL

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.



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.

Salvation starts three trimesters ahead of December Christmas—and forgiveness—begins already in March.

And it includes a gestating baby and an adoptive father!

The week that culminates in the Festival of the Annunciation (March 25) kicks off with the Feast of St. Joseph (March 19).

So the Word became flesh (John 1:14) and God with us (Matthew 1:23) in a surprise pregnancy.

The Annunciation and St. Joseph, Guardian of Our Lord

The Christmas crisis is that it doesn't indicate only disaster.

The Mother of our Lord may have been unmarried but He did not leave her to carry the Child alone.

Elizabeth and Bethlehem also intervened and assisted.

But God gave Joseph to accompany her all along because His grace is about always abiding nearby.

NEW

Mother's day

"How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings" (Matthew 23:37).

"You made me trust you in my mother's bosom...and from my mother's womb you have been my God" (Psalm 22:9-10).

NEW

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

New Inserts for 2025!

The Annunciation of Our Lord – *Item LFL1111Bl.* **\$0.10 ea.**

Mother's Day – *Item LFL121Bl.* **\$0.10 ea.**

Father's Day – *Item LFL117Bl.* **\$0.10 ea.**

"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom all fatherhood in heaven and on earth is named" (Ephesians 3:15).

Father's day HAPPY

"The Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in" (Proverbs 3:12).

NEW

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE



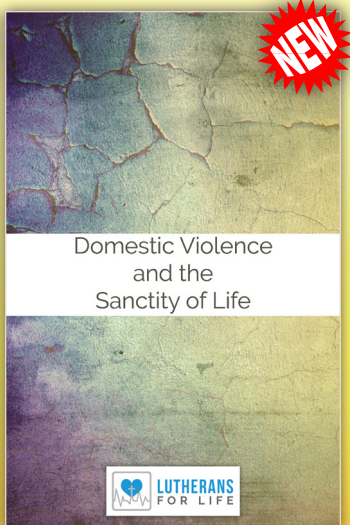
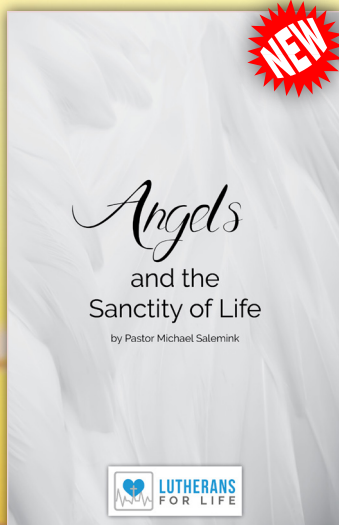
Gender and Sexuality

Gender Identity Series

Y4 LIFE

NEW

Gender and Sexuality – An infographic booklet – Sex and gender. They're hot topics in today's society, aren't they? *Item Y4L123-1.* \$4.50 ea.



Angels and the Sanctity of Life – Item

LFL210B. \$2.00 ea.

Domestic Violence and the Sanctity of Life –

Item 311B. \$3.00 ea.

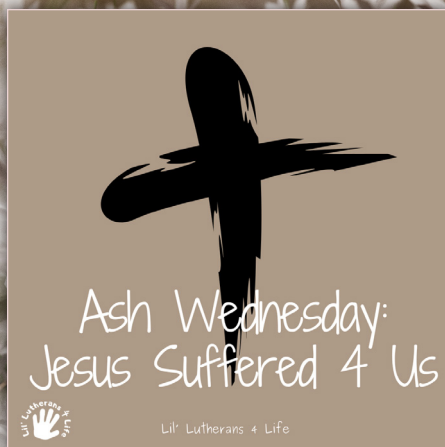


Self-Harm – A Word of Hope Brochure – Item WOH002.

\$2.00 ea.



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



Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Ash Wednesday and Holy Week Brochures – A child-friendly series. Item Y4L126-series.
\$1.50 ea.



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

Available in App Stores



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

“ 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, April 14, 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 ...





Lutherans For Life is delighted to announce an exciting new opportunity! Save the date for spring 2025, because in a couple of months we'll be inviting your congregation to participate in the House of Refuge initiative.

We're collaborating with our friends at a fellow sanctity-of-life ministry known as Love Life, who developed the House of Refuge project. The House of Refuge represents a brilliantly simple Gospel-motivated witness and service to our communities. A House of Refuge congregation commits publicly and lovingly to active surrounding and ongoing supporting of neighbors experiencing surprise pregnancies.

They undertake this by:

- registering their leadership's consent to readiness and pastoral endorsement of it with Lutherans For Life,
- declaring the House of Refuge pledge in the worshiping assembly at least twice annually and displaying it in a prominent location of their facility,
- designating a parish House of Refuge ambassador,
- publicizing their contact information on Love Life's online nationwide House of Refuge locator,
- and preparing access to material, emotional, social, and spiritual assistance in the event that a community member accepts the House of Refuge invitation.

The House of Refuge pledge promises to anyone undergoing surprise pregnancy that this congregation regards the condition as a blessing instead of a sin and the child as a privilege rather than a punishment. The congregation affirms they hold precious both the child's life and the welfare of the parents and asserts they will unite their efforts toward whatever it takes to help mother and father carry and care for the little one. The congregation also vows not to subject mother or father to gossip or shame or pressure toward abortion. The congregation devotes themselves to sympathy and solidarity for mothers, to encouraging and commending, and to holding men accountable for their God-given vocations. And the congregation insists on extending the Heavenly Father's forgiveness and healing in Christ Jesus to any who mourn already having aborted their own children.

Please begin getting ready by informing your congregation that House of Refuge is forthcoming and monitoring Lutherans For Life communications for further details!

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**.



iGive.com[®]

Change online shopping for good.

Why Me? ... Why Not Me?

by Barbara Lane Geistfeld, D.V.M.



"I have breast cancer." I recently spoke these words during a phone conversation with a dear friend in Brooklyn. There was a gasp, a shocked silence, and then the words, "Why you? You are such a wonderful Christian person, why would God do this to you? You don't deserve this. It isn't *fair*!" Have you ever heard these words? Have you ever said these words to yourself or to a friend?

I waited for her shock to lessen, and then I said, "Why me? ... Why not me? God doesn't send good things to 'good' people and bad things to 'bad' people. Don't you remember what Jesus said when asked about this very thing?" And I reminded her of the story of the blind man found in John 9:1-3:

"As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.'"

I did my best to explain to her that I did not believe my cancer was a punishment from God. It is what God chose for me to experience for *His* glory. How I handled this news was for *His* glory, not mine. Sharing with the world my deep gratitude for the work of His hands in the incredibly early diagnosis and successful treatment was to bring *Him* glory.

Nor did I believe my previous good health was a reward from God. Our behavior, good or bad, is not the basis for His decisions. His divine will is mixed into our lives as He wishes. Remember Job?

"There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil" (Job 1:1).

Remember what the Lord allowed Satan to do to Job? Nowhere does Scripture say that God was punishing Job. We certainly don't fully understand God's intent, but we do know He was in control. He had a plan for good. In his misery, even Job said,

"The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.' In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong" (Job 1:21b-22).

In other words, Job said, "Why me?... Why not me? My God may do as He wills in my life. I am His."

Soon after this, I mentioned my diagnosis to another Christian friend who had been successfully treated for prostate cancer several years ago. I also shared the "why me" conversation, and I was so grateful when he said, "Yes, I was there in that same pit for about two weeks after I was diagnosed, but the Lord pulled me out of it." He totally got it. "Why me? ... Why not me?"

Then there is another dear friend who said, "I had breast cancer in 1995. *Knowing who I am, I don't know why the Lord healed me.*" Oh, no. This is just a heartbreaking twist to the erroneous belief that "good things happen to good people and bad things happen to bad people, so because I am bad, God should never have healed me."

Our hearts should ache for everyone caught in this mindset—for those who think God capriciously brings good and bad things into our lives on a whim and for those who think good things are rewards for good behavior and bad things are a punishment for bad behavior. Jesus Himself said in Matthew 5:45:

“[F]or he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and the unjust.”

God loves and cares for *both* the just and the unjust. In fact, God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son to give us eternal life and the forgiveness of sins through His death and resurrection. *In Jesus*, we are not “bad.” We are pure and holy, righteous in God’s sight. 2 Corinthians 5:17 reminds us of who we are because of whose we are:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

Yes, life is a struggle. Yes, sin still creeps in the door when we are not looking. We are aliens living in a dark and sinful world. But my prayer is that *all of us* will know, beyond any shadow of a doubt, that our God loves us, our Jesus loves us, and our lives matter to them both. I pray that all of us continually remember that we are sons and daughters—heirs—of the Most High God. And I earnestly pray that when “bad” things happen to us, we will be able to say with confidence, knowing we are secure in the love of the Lord, Why me? ... Why not me?

We certainly don't
always fully understand
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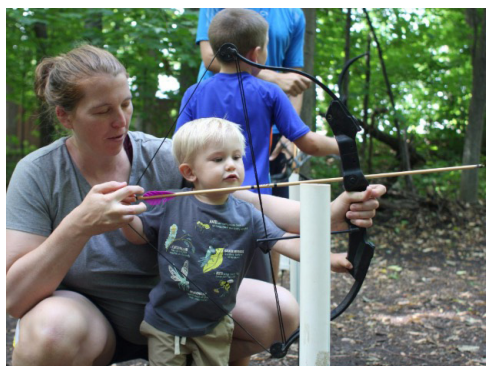


"On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate" (Psalm 145:5).

Do you have a Lutheran camp near you? Life ministry is going on at many of these camps. If you participate in an event or activity at your local Lutheran camp, one comes to realize the beauty of the outdoors. God's works of creation are nothing but amazing. In the summer, the activity at these camps is something to behold. The winter season is also a time to enjoy the splendor of both the outdoors and the warm serenity of the camps indoors.

I know you are aware of the need to support agencies that support life. Places like your local pregnancy centers, hospice facilities, nursing homes, and many, many, more provide meaningful service in supporting the gift of life. Have you ever thought that your local camp ministries are also vital in equipping both children and adults with the sanctity of human life? Well, they most certainly are.

Lutheran camps play a vital role in using their natural surroundings to support and educate and provide inspiring programs that offer precious time in building Christ-centered relationships through Bible studies and devotions and through the camp experience itself. Programs for those with developmental disabilities give these beautiful people the opportunity to enjoy their favorite camp experiences. Family camps give the entire family the camp experience while providing spiritual development time. Children of all ages are brought together in God's Word through the many camp activities from canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, swimming, and more—all age appropriate. They can even make s'mores while singing around a campfire, building yet another relationship in the Lutheran camp experience.



Programs for those with disabilities, family ministry and youth retreats all include the message and love of Jesus. How great are God's works, and what a wonderful place to meditate, hear God's Word, and worship, giving praise to God, our Creator and Redeemer.

Life and God's love for life is happening all around our Lutheran camps. Bob LaCroix, executive director of Camp Omega in Waterville, Minnesota, shared, "Camp Omega's tagline is 'Fun, Friends & Faith.' We encourage guests to get outside and enjoy God's creation as they build stronger relationships with each other and come to a deeper, more life changing understanding of our Savior, Jesus' love for them."

Have you considered sponsoring or subsidizing the cost to send children or families to your local Lutheran camp? They will grow in their faith and learn life lessons through the education, Bible studies, activities, and camp experience.

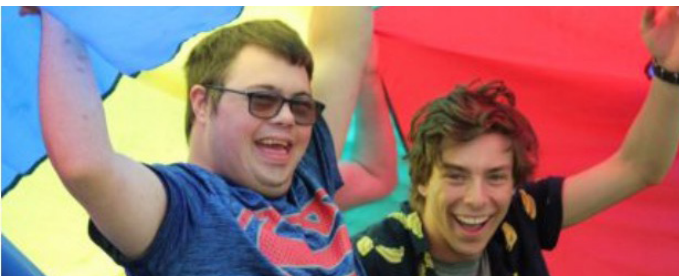
Consider funding those from your church who have developmental disabilities. It may be the first time they experience a program of this nature designed specifically for them and their special needs.

Perhaps you might consider working with your camp leadership in sponsoring a life event by bringing in a speaker and intertwining it with the camp experience. Each camp has facilities for conducting such an event. You just need to reach out to them and help organize and promote such a God-pleasing experience. I know funding is always a concern, but with a willing heart and positive focus, it just might be something that God places in front of you. It might take a while to put the plans together, but there is no deadline, other than the urgency to equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

Won't you please add your Lutheran camp ministries to your list of favorite agencies that support life and share the love of Jesus in a unique way using God's creation as their background? You too could plan your next life ministry group's retreat at a Lutheran camp so you can get away, growing your faith and confidence in God's plan for you and your team. Use your time in reviewing your Mission Discovery Plans for moving forward with your life ministry.

If you haven't had your Lutheran camp in your plans for supporting life ministry, please consider them going forward. If you do nothing else, visit one of the Lutheran camps. You will be rewarded by that experience. God has given us many ways to support life; this is just one more beautiful way of doing just that.

May God continue to bless our Lutheran camps, and may we always remember the good, God-pleasing work going on at those awe-inspiring places.



The Tenacious Faith of Esther

by Grace MacPherson



God rarely uses extraordinary people.

There was nothing extraordinary about Esther. On the surface, she was an ordinary girl, forced into a political marriage with the king who had conquered her nation and divorced his previous wife, a king so powerful he could have killed her for coming into his presence uninvited. To all appearances, she was completely helpless. She had no hidden skills, no secret talents. Nothing but the beauty that caught the king's eye in the first place and a tenacious faith in the God of her fathers.

Esther was absolutely ordinary, and yet God used her to accomplish extraordinary things. All throughout history, God has worked through ordinary people. He made a barren woman the mother of the nation of Israel. A runaway prince led His people out of slavery in Egypt. A shepherd boy united a kingdom against idolatrous enemies. A hot-tempered fisherman and a self-righteous Pharisee spread the Gospel throughout the world.

All through Scripture and history, God rarely used extraordinary people. Instead, even for the most miraculous deeds, He used everyday, ordinary people.

In one sense, this is deeply, even brutally, humbling. God didn't place us where He did because we have some special talent or ability. None of us is the best at what we do. God created us—we can't awe Him with our extraordinary gifts.

But at the same time, this understanding of ourselves and of God is unspeakably comforting. You do not carry the weight of the world—He does. And it is a world He has already died to save.

There was nothing extraordinary about the teenagers gathered in a church basement one hot summer afternoon. Nothing about their hands, sometimes deft and sometimes clumsy as they wove three thousand bracelets to be sold in support of mothers yearning to protect their unborn babies. But God used those teenagers in that humid church basement.

You don't have to be extraordinary for God to work through you. He can accomplish great things through something as unassuming as prayer or as simple as a meal for a new mother.

There was nothing extraordinary about the group of college students gathered to hear a professor speak about the value of life. They weren't a collection of star athletes, of scholarship recipients, of anything else extraordinary—just an ordinary group of young men and women. And God used them, too.

There was nothing extraordinary about the first-grade girl on the school playground. Nothing extraordinary in her small arms as she cradled her baby doll as tenderly as she cradles her baby brother every Sunday in church. Nothing extraordinary in her expression as she took off her jacket and bundled it around her baby to shield it from the icy December wind. Just a little girl rocking a plastic doll—yet God will use her to do extraordinary things. Whether that is as a faithful wife and mother or an eloquent writer or a tireless advocate for those with no voice, I don't know.

But God made a shepherd boy a king and a captured girl a queen. He made a harlot and a virgin mothers of the Messiah.

Your story might not look as extraordinary as Esther's. It might not be as exciting as David's or as tumultuous as Rahab's or as terrifying as Mary's. But you don't have to be extraordinary for God to work through you. He can accomplish great things through something as unassuming as prayer or as simple as a meal for a new mother.

Esther did great things not because she was extraordinary, not because she sought out fame and glory, but because of her childlike, tenacious faith in the God who does extraordinary things through ordinary people.

Realistically, most of us will never be more than ordinary, but that doesn't mean we're useless. God works through the ordinary, the mundane, and the commonplace. He worked through Esther, and He works through you to bless others in ways you may never know.

Nothing about Esther was extraordinary. Nothing was special. But God used her to save an entire nation from genocide. How He will use you, I have no idea. But for all of history, what God accomplishes through ordinary people has never fallen short of extraordinary.

Grace MacPherson lives in Casper, Wyoming, with her family. She is the author of the fantasy novels The King's Sword and Domitian. You can read more about her work and stay updated on her writing at authorgracemacpherson.com.



Life Shines in Darkness ... and in Youth

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life



Over 520 individuals came together to support LIFE!

The 2025 Y4Life in Washington, D.C., conference theme, **Life Shines in Darkness**, was 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."**

As the Y4Life team wraps up Y4Life in Washington, D.C., I am reflecting on the good, life-affirming gifts God gave us this year, and I can't help but count you in that number. Thanks to donors like you, we were able to welcome a record number of youth at our conference this year. Because of sponsors like you, over 520 participants were able to attend.

That means that over 520 people heard multiple Gospel-motivated presentations. Over 520 energized and passionate attendees marched with us in the March for Life. Over 520 individuals came together to support LIFE!

In addition to participating in the March for Life and making connections with other like-minded youth and young adults, attendees heard from:

- Josh Brahm, a well-known pro-life speaker and the Executive Director of Equal Rights Institute, who spoke on the practice of pro-life conversations
- Pre-march speaker Katy Faust, founder of Them Before Us, a children's rights organization
- Kim Laube, Executive Director of Lutheran Family Service
- Rev. Harrison Goodman, Content Executive of Higher Things; Rev. Simeon Raddatz, Campus Pastor at Concordia Chicago; and Rev. Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life
- Panel discussion members Deaconess Rachel Geraci, Rev. Tim Pauls, and Rev. Chad Hoover on the topics of Dating, Marriage, and Family

Our event was filled with opportunities to see life shine in the darkness and to equip youth to share it with others.

Thank you for your generosity, your prayers, and your support. Your gift reflected the light of Christ to many. Your gift brought them LIFE! I thank God for your partnership.





Life Thoughts in the Church Year

Based on appointed readings from Lutheran Service Book

April 6 – Lent V – The Lord our God forms persons and peoples for Himself (Isaiah 43:21). Our lives and every neighbor's body belong to the Almighty Maker. He intends each one not only for survival but for salvation in the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:10). This means we get to receive all humankind's members as gifts and privileges and treat them as inestimably precious.

April 13 – Palm Sunday/Passion of Our Lord – Incarnation, atonement, and resurrection from the dead have earned Jesus Christ authority over the manner of our living and the timing of our dying (Deuteronomy 32:39). Even in surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis, we may commit human life's course to His loving care, for His own humble humanity has sanctified every moment of ours (Philippians 2:8-9).

April 20 – Resurrection of Our Lord – Lethal measures like abortion and assisted suicide claim to express autonomy, but they really embody surrenders to death. Jesus Christ, sacrificed and arising again, liberates from submission to this ultimate enemy (1 Corinthians 15:26). Neither we nor our neighbors need equate human worth with length of days or lack thereof (Isaiah 65:20). Who will tell them? Why not us?

April 27 – Easter II – “An angel of the Lord...brought them out and said, ‘Go... and speak to the people all the words of this Life’” (Acts 5:19-20). Life—immediate, abundant, ongoing from fertilization to forever—belongs to the heart of the Gospel and the very identity of our Savior Jesus Christ. And is there any clearer Scriptural invitation for the sanctity of life to occupy all our conversation?

May 4 – Easter III – Our Father in heaven gathers into His flock persons of every tribe and nation and language (Revelation 5:9-10). Ages, appearances, and abilities do not disqualify anyone, and our world works best when our words and ways proclaim and practice it. And as both Peter and Paul illustrate, neither heritage nor history keeps hearts from Him either. Forgiveness and faith relieve even from involvement in abortion!

May 11 – Easter IV/Mother's Day – With motherly tenacity and tenderness, Jesus insists none of His little ones perish (John 10:28). Each one comes from the Heavenly Father's own almighty hand (John 10:29), no matter size or skills or circumstances (Revelation 7:9). He desires the whole human community to share His delight in caring for them all (Acts 10:28), even in surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis.

May 18 – Easter V – “What God has made clean, do not call common” (Acts 11:9). Peter's cuisine vision reveals the sanctity of human lives. What God has created, redeemed, and called precious, do not call clump of cells, tumor or tissue, parasite or potential life only. What God has given as gift and privilege, do not regard as burdensome, undignified, or vegetative. And don't consent to anyone else doing so either!

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

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

May 25 – Easter VI – Surprise pregnancy, infertility, disability, or terminal diagnosis sometimes hide the sanctity of life. But humankind’s Heavenly Bridegroom beholds every member of our race as beautiful, blessed, and special (Revelation 21:7). His Word helps us see every neighbor with the same gracious eyes that regard us beloved. What joy will be ours when our mouths give voice to our vision – and invite our whole society to share!

June 1 – Easter VII – The sanctity of human life means more than implementing regulations or controlling behaviors. Jesus longs “that they may be one” (John 17:22) and “that the love with which you have loved me may be in them” (John 17:26). This represents invitation and instruction to receive every neighbor as gift and privilege, treat all bodies and needs as such, and speak courageously and compassionately about it.

June 8 – Pentecost – Words about the worth and purpose invested in every human being belong not to us alone but to Almighty God Himself (John 14:24). Our Savior graciously endows the Words of Life with the Holy Spirit’s power (John 14:26). So we must not dilute or suppress what He has made unquestionably clear, and we may entrust the public effects of the message to His wisdom.

June 15 – Festival of the Holy Trinity/Father’s Day – The Maker of heavens and earth has the nature of fatherhood and sonship. Begetting and parenting belongs to His distinctive and eternal character. No greater wisdom, insight, or answer exists for any circumstance of humankind—surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis included—than the goodness of delighting in children and parents—embryo, elderly, or otherwise—and submitting ourselves to their welfare.

June 22 – Pentecost II (Proper 7C) – Death is the devil’s lair and destruction is his labor. Demonic forces lurk around the grave and lead to nowhere else (Luke 8:27). Feeble mortals do well not to dabble with such sinister powers, even if technology like abortion and assisted suicide make it accessible. Better to beg the Lord Jesus to rescue and safeguard human life even when it appears less than to us.

June 29 – St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles – Humankind once mistook Jesus for somebody less than Lord God (Matthew 16:13-14). Even His own people once mistook Gentiles for something less than just as special (Acts 15:5). The Gospel and its Apostles delight to embrace neighbors not yet born and neighbors no longer able as blessings, brothers and sisters, beloved and belonging to one Heavenly Father. May we rejoice to proclaim and practice it!

Step Up 4 Life 2025!

by Dave Probst, Director of Development



"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21).

You are a vital member of our Lutherans For Life community, and we once again need your help to make our fifth annual **Step Up 4 Life** fundraising campaign a success! Here's how you can partner with us this spring.

SAVE THE DATE

Step Up 4 Life 2025



May 11, 2025
through
June 24, 2025



Individuals and teams can once again track steps, fundraise for LFL, and compete for the most steps acquired during our **Step Up 4 Life 2025** campaign.

This year, **Step Up 4 Life** will take place from May 11 (Mother's Day) through June 24 (the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*) and include a goal of raising \$85,000 for Lutherans For Life's current and future ministry needs.

Need help with your **Step Up 4 Life** planning? Our free **Step Up 4 Life** kits can be ordered by calling 888.364.5433 or visiting our **Step Up 4 Life** website at www.stepup4life.org/2025.

Registration for Step Up 4 Life 2025 will open on April 1. Start working on setting up your walking team, congregational event, or fundraising ideas!

You can join our efforts to change hearts and save lives this spring by participating in our **Step Up 4 Life** campaign. To learn more about our **Step Up 4 Life 2025** campaign and discover ways you can partner in our Gospel-motivated, life-affirming work, please visit www.stepup4life.org/2025.

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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