



Affirming Life In Illinois

Praying Over Scripture

Each day I PRAY OVER scripture for extended family members and prayer partners and their families. I pray for God to take them from where they are at in their relationship with God to where God wants them to be.

One key Bible passage that I PRAY OVER for people is Proverbs 3: 5-6: "Trust in the Lord with ALL YOUR HEART, and do not lean on your own understanding. In ALL YOUR WAYS acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6). I strongly encourage you to pray over this Bible passage for people you know. When the going gets tough, PUT YOUR TRUST IN GOD! When we put our trust in ourselves or too much in doctors or someone else, eventually they will let us down or we will fall flat on our faces trying to do everything on our

own. We cannot do everything on our own. We cannot save ourselves from falling into sin either. We are natural born sinners who desperately need to trust God to save us from our sin, self, and Satan and all his evil workers and ways. PUT YOUR TRUST IN GOD who sent His Son to save us from our sin, self, and Satan and all his evil workers and ways through His horrible death on the cross. Imagine Jesus dying for each of your sins on the cross... Imagine being below the cross with His mother Mary and His disciple John watching Him die a horrible death FOR YOU! When you are there with Him beneath the cross, His death becomes more meaningful, more personal FOR YOUR SALVATION!...His death on the cross is no longer just for someone else's sins. He died FOR YOU TOO! HE DIED TO SAVE YOU FROM YOUR SINS AND ROSE

FROM THE DEAD TO GIVE YOU THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE!

"Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, PRAY. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life" (Phil. 4:6-7 in The Message).

Let us PRAY: Lord, overcome my worries and fears with Your joy-filled Resurrection hope in eternal life and Your presence with us ALWAYS! Jesus said, "I am with you ALWAYS" (Mt. 28:20). You over-came sin, self, and Satan through Your Resurrection. Enable us to put our full trust in You to overcome ALL our fears, worries and anxieties.

Pastor David Bottorff, LFL of IL, President

Lutherans For Life of Illinois Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 1

Winter 2025

Save the date, Illinois

- * April, Post Abortion Recovery Awareness Month.
- * April 20, Easter
- * May, Foster Care Awareness Month
- * May 11, Mother's Day
- * June, 15, Father's Day
- * August 23, Illinois Life Event, Trinity Lutheran Church, Auburn, IL

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When Jesus prayed for You...

In John 17, Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane for His disciples. He didn't just pray for the 12, but for those who would believe because of their words. In other words, He prayed for you and me!



This issue we are looking at Life through the lens of prayers from the Bible and it seems like a good time to investigate what Jesus wanted for us when he spoke to the Father about us.

For one thing, He asked the Father to not take us out of the world, but to protect us from the evil one. We are in the world

for a reason and we move about it, fully surrounded by the Heavenly Father's protection from the evil one. Jesus noted that we might face hatred, just like He did, but we need never fear being overcome by the source of hatred, as Father God has heard our Lord Jesus' prayer and He, Himself, loves us and is for us!

Another of Jesus' requests is that He would continue to be in us that we might love one another as He and the Father love one another. He said the reason He was asking this is so the watching world would believe. Our world is so hungry for real love, the love that cares for the marginalized, speaks for

the voiceless, and values the forgotten, that I believe they will sit up and take notice if we yield to the Spirit's nudging to truly love.

Jesus also asked His Father that we might be sanctified (made holy, set apart for God) in truth, and He went on to say that God's Word is truth. God's Word provides the lenses we need to see the truth, just as glasses provide sight for the sightless. That's why Scripture is the basis for our belief, our motivation to act, and our basis for taking a stand for Life, regardless of what "Life Issue" is being addressed.

In answer to Jesus' prayer, may we boldly speak the truth in love, with actions rooted in kindness, using words when necessary!

-LL

Illinois Pro-Life March 2025

One thing about the March for Life, it is never quite the same from one year to the next. This year, for example, they changed the name to Illinois Pro-Life March.

One thing that has been consistent, however, is the uplifting service hosted by the Central Illinois District of LCMS beforehand at Trinity Lutheran Church. Pastor Aaron Miller, of Trinity led the liturgy. CID President Rev. Michael Mohr led the singing. SID President, Rev. Heath Curtis read the Scripture...Isaiah 7:10-14, Hebrews 10:4-10, and Luke 1:26-38. NID President, Alan Buss delivered the message. President Buss reminded us that it wasn't just Herod who wanted baby Jesus dead, it was Satan, himself and that every conception, every birth of a child reminds the evil one of the birth of the Holy Child who conquered him. Having failed in his efforts to defeat Jesus, he now comes after us, the church, parents, and so forth in an effort to destroy those little reminders. President Buss reminded us that God was at work in Jesus' coming to earth and that He remains at work. He shared that the Son of God shows up in small places, difficult places, challenging places and surprising places, giving examples of each from Scripture. To our encouragement he reminded us that for us today, He shows up in the Word, at Baptism,

in His body and blood...to bring Life and Salvation! In the spirit of Lent, we were reminded that repentance begins with us and that even though we might forget the vulnerable and even one another, Jesus does not forget us. We were gathered to be renewed and loved by the Savior in order that we might scatter to many places. "Jesus has given to us so we can give to others" was the conclusion of the message.

When the pre-march rally began, we were joined by abortion rights protesters this year. Only 10 of them, but loud.

The rally was emceed by Mary Kate Zander, Illinois Right to Life. Opening Prayer was led by Bishop Paprocki of the Springfield Diocese. Then we were treated to a surprise visit from Jeanie Ives, who told of her own experience as a mother carrying a child who had been identified as having a birth defect that would not allow for life. She encouraged the crowd in many ways, but I found this statement most profound: "Even suffering does not grant one person the right to kill another."

Dr. Eppinette, Director of the Center for Bioethics at Trinity College, spoke about IVF and other ethical issues, including Physician Assisted Suicide. Among his reasons for believing PAS is a mistake is that statistically, the

overall suicide rate increases where it is practiced and that it puts the disabled at risk. Noting the scientific basis for the beginning of Life, he said, "You and I were never a sperm or an egg, but every one of us was an embryo." He went on to discuss the straight line of development we undergo from that point, as human beings.

Erin Andrews, Executive Director of We Care Pregnancy Center told about their approach to surprise pregnancy: "You are not alone, and you are worthy."

Two memorable quotes from Dr. Christina Francis, OBGYN of the American Association of Pro-Life OB-GYNs... "Pregnancy is not a disease!" Sometimes we forget the obvious in the face of repeated marketing word choice. "Making a patient feel an abortion is her only choice is not compassion, but cruelty." God bless these Life Affirming Doctors!

We were then blessed on our way by Rev. Dr. Michael Mohr with a call to stand together in Christian unity and to stand with the vulnerable, together proclaiming: "Let them live!"

I personally found the number of young people marching an encouragement, as well. Lutheran and Catholic school classes, families bringing their kids, St. Antony's Parish youth group setting a beat with drums and cheers. And yes, the Lutherans did some singing.

—LL

Voting with Your Pocketbook...vote down abortion drugs

When CVS and Walgreens began selling the abortion pills, I had my doctor switch my prescriptions to another pharmacy. It is one way to vote with my pocketbook, as my pharmaceutical purchases are not supporting a company that is offering abortion pills. I realize this may not be practical for some of you, depending on what is available in your locale, but for those of us who live in rural areas, it may simply mean driving in a different direction and for those in larger cities, many pharmacies are available, so it is worth considering.

Dan Hart of LifeNews.com reported last December that both Sam's Club and Kroger do not offer the abortion pill online, but that a recent listing saying they did was a mistake. His report also included the following:

"...lawmakers and officials have heavily lobbied nationwide pharmacy chains to carry the chemical abortion pill, including Walmart

(owner of Sam's Club), Costco, Safeway, Kroger, HealthMart, Albertsons, and McKesson. As of this writing, however, CVS and Walgreens are the only nationwide chains that widely dispense the drug, with Rite Aid selling it in a limited number of stores."

That being the case, this might also be a good time to consider writing a letter to the manager of your pharmacy. If yours is one that supplies the abortion pill, you could politely express your concerns about that. If your pharmacy is one that does not currently sell the abortion pill, thank them! And encourage them to continue resisting pressure to do so. Hart reports, "The FDA has warned that up to 7% of women who undergo chemical abortions will need surgery "to stop bleeding" or to complete the abortion. With the latest numbers showing that almost two-thirds of the over one million abortions

that were carried out in 2023 were done via the drug, an estimated 45,000 women will likely require emergency surgery per year as a result.

In addition, incomplete data from the FDA shows that 26 women have died after taking the abortion drug from 2000 to 2021. The highly publicized deaths of Amber Thurman and Candi Miller both occurred a year later in 2022 as a result of ingesting the abortion pill regimen."

If you need reasons for concern to share with your pharmacy manager, those seem like some pretty important ones!

To read the whole article, see [LifeNews.com](https://www.lifeneews.com)

We can't do everything that needs doing, but we can do something! We can be mindful of our spending, we can write, and we can pray.

—LL

Pray for those in business, both that God bless their labor, and that Life would matter to them and they would choose to affirm it, rather than end it.

Go Team! Honoring the Years

The Life Team at Ascension Lutheran in Tucson held an event to honor their seniors. Our life team at Trinity in Auburn, Illinois thought it was a great idea so we adapted it. We sent each member of our congregation that was 85 or older an invitation reminding them of the amazing slice of history they had witnessed and embellished with photos from the 40's. We encouraged them to complete a short questionnaire. These replies were compiled in a booklet. We honored our seniors on Nov. 3 with a special church service followed by a brunch

for them and the entire church family. We served egg casseroles, a potato dish, and muffins. We also had a beautifully decorated birthday cake. The booklets were available on the tables as well as magnets with verses honoring age. What's a birthday party with out presents.....so we presented each person with a small table ornament with a Bible verse. Pictures were taken. . There was much laughter that day. The seniors appreciated being recognized. So often they feel invisible. It was interesting that some of the most heartfelt thanks came not from the honorees but from their

spouses. We have much to learn from our seniors. Old age is not a time of passage to death. It is a positive time to cherish the past, bask in the memories, and know in your heart that the future—death—is not to be feared. They are clothed with Christ and His righteousness. Thus they are able to look at life with His vision and perspective---they can touch the deeper currents of hope that flow beneath our daily desires and wishes and fears. God has led them faithfully all these years and He will continue to lead them and welcome them - and us ---home in the end.
By Alice Steljes

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting...and Praise (3/5 -4/13)

Psalm 8:1-2 ESV, "O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

² Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength..."

Can we praise God as we pray and fast for an end to abortion? I believe we can. We can praise and thank Him for every Life He has created. We can praise Him for allowing us mere mortals to share in the creative process through the gift of childbearing. And as we consider the incredible intricacy

of the human body growing and developing from its microscopic state at conception to a fully developed stage of life, how can we but recognize and praise the majestic wisdom and beneficence of the Creator?

And who but God would choose the message of weak and untaught infants to "establish strength?!" Pondering how that might happen, it occurs to me that the little ones are totally dependent. That is where our strength lies, as well. Who but the Almighty Lord of Life has the ability to change the mind of misled adults, turning them from death to Life? During 40 Days for Life, we can call upon Him to go where we cannot...into the darkness of the abortion centers, into the muddle of Congress, into the hearts and minds of people

choosing between Life and death. In God we Trust!

The end of verse 2 of Psalm 8 says, that the strength so established is "to still the enemy..." 40 Days for Life has created a short video with so many pictures of beautiful lives saved, even in the midst of those who oppose life. You can see it [here](#). Life wins, death is silenced! Glory to God!

Sign up to pray [here!](#)

—LL

Praise Him for the gift of Life and pray that God would indeed use the beauty of Life to still those who oppose it!

Good News for Life...

Mom Rejects Abortion of her Disabled Baby...

"On the "I Like Birds" podcast with Zach Rippey, Ava shared how she was fortunate to have Pro-Life parents and a supportive church community who celebrated the new life she was carrying. However, their joy quickly turned to mourning.

At her 21-week scan, the doctors gave Ava devastating news: Her baby girl was not developing kidneys and had almost no amniotic fluid. Living in Texas, Ava was presented with two options: she could travel to another state for an abortion, or she could continue her pregnancy, with the doctors treating her baby as if she were healthy...

After the appointment, Ava told her parents, "This might be crazy because I know she's not going to survive anyway, but I only have so much time left with her. Why

should I cut it any shorter? She's safe in my womb... I've seen what an abortion looks like... I don't think I could bear to have her ripped piece by piece out of my womb and shorten the life that is already so short, take her away from a spot where God has placed her in my hands, in my womb, where she's safe and she's warm. Where she only knows love and she doesn't know pain. Why would I give her such a painful death, when she's perfectly fine with me?"...

On November 19, 2023, she gave birth in an emergency C-section to her precious daughter Sophie. With worship music in the background, she met her daughter face to face. "I was able to stay awake for 30 minutes holding her," before Ava was put under full anesthesia due to some complications. Then, Ava's mother held Sophie until she passed away less than an hour later...

"Sophie may have not been here for my whole life. But I got to be here for

hers. She only ever knew my love, was held and cared for by my mom and very kind nurses, and then went to be with our God and my Grandma Sandy. The best babysitters anyone could ask for. I like to think she was simply too perfect for this world."

When society suggests that ending the life of a baby with a life-limiting diagnosis is the most compassionate option, Ava chose a different path. She gave baby Sophie dignity, love, and compassion." From an article by Ashlynn Lemos published Jan 7, 2025, by Life News.com

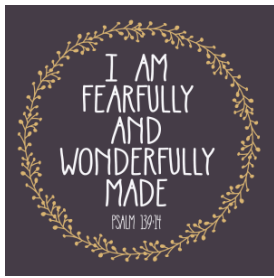
Illinois Abortion Facilities Closed!

From 40 Days for Life:

"We knew this was coming...but it's no less sweet. The Planned Parenthood abortion facilities in Bloomington and Decatur, Illinois are now CLOSED!"



Lutherans For Life National Conference



The 2025 National Conference of Lutherans For Life will be held at Great Wolf Lodge in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The conference is set to begin on September 24, 2025 and to end on the 26th. This year's theme verse is "I am Fearfully and Wonderfully Made." (Psalm 139:14) Great Wolf Lodge, Colorado Springs, CO



Pray those planning the conference will be blessed with God's guidance! Pray those attending will be blessed for Life!

Position Statement

Biblical Instruction on Sexuality
WHEREAS, Lutherans for Life believes the Bible is the only authoritative and infallible guide for doctrine and practice concerning sexuality; and
WHEREAS, the Bible teaches that:
• God created man male and female, and the two sexes are to complement and complete each other. Genesis 2:18: "Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.'" Matthew 19:4: "He answered, 'Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female...?'"
• God created marriage, which is defined as the monogamous union of one man and one woman. Genesis 2:23-24: "Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.' Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Hebrews 13:4: "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will

judge the sexually immoral and adulterous."
• God has confined sexual intimacy to the marriage relationship, and therefore sex outside that relationship is contrary to the will and command of God. Exodus 20:14: "You shall not commit adultery." cf Matthew 19:18. Ephesians 5:3: "But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints."
• Teaching these Biblical principles is the primary responsibility of parents, to be supplemented and supported by the Church. Deuteronomy 6:6-7: "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."
Proverbs 4:1-2: "Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching."
Ephesians 6:4: "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them

up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." Therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that all Biblical teaching on sexuality should impress upon children their uniqueness as males and females, the need for abstinence until marriage, the dangers of sex outside marriage, and sex as a gift from God. If exposure to teaching contrary to these principles is unavoidable, parents and the Church should counter that teaching with the solid truths of the Word of God. Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." Matthew 18:6: "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea." Hebrews 12:9: "Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?"

You can read all the position statements on the LFL website.

Lutherans For Life of Illinois State Life Event

SAVE THE DATE!!
Lutherans For Life of Illinois will once again be holding a statewide Life Event. Although we are still deep in the planning stage, I can tell you with certainty that the event is to be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn, IL on August

23rd, 2025.
Attendees last year had more end of life issues they wanted to see addressed, so it will once again be a primary focus. Other areas that will be addressed include, ministry to caregivers, foster care, legisla-

tive issues, the Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries Maternity Home and a local pregnancy help center from the Springfield area. Will send more news as it happens!
---LL

You Asked For It... Talking to Teens about Abortion

Abortion. It's a tough topic to talk about, isn't it? Especially in today's polarizing political landscape. If truth be told, most of us try to avoid topics that cause division. It's easier to remain quiet, to keep our opinions to ourselves, than it is to speak up and face the opposition.

And if it's difficult for adults to have a conversation about controversial issues, then you can be certain it is doubly so for youth where fitting in has always been important. After all, social acceptance is something young people deeply long for. And in a society where loneliness has hit epic proportions, friendships have become even more valuable.

The current loneliness epidemic could make your attempts to talk to the youth in your life about abortion even more difficult. Or . . . it may actually give you the perfect opportunity to engage! **As youth seek relationships they can depend on and people they can trust, adults like you have an incredible opportunity to speak truth and uphold life.**

I'm hoping this article will help you build on that opportunity!

The truth is there are many ways to begin conversations with youth about abortion. There is no "right way" to do it. As parents, grandparents, pastors, and other church workers, you know the youth in your life best. And you know youth are not all the same. For some, approaching the topic of abortion through the lens of logic and faith will work well. Others learn best through appeals to the heart. Wherever we start the conversation, the goal is to meet youth where they are, affirm what is good, and then help them grow in faith and life.

So instead of preparing a script that will supposedly work for every youth, I've prepared seven highlights, or pointers, for speaking to youth about the topic of abortion. Here they are:

1. Be relational. Just like any other age group, relationships are important to youth. However, because teens are used to being advertised to, they can also spot a fake persona from a mile away. Youth need real conversations with real people who really care about them. Their inboxes and phones screens vie for their attention, inviting them to buy this or do that. Taking time to build a relationship with the youth you want to engage with and then taking time to connect face to face when you want

to discuss difficult topics like abortion not only conveys you care about them as individuals but also that you're making an investment in their lives.

2. Be purposeful. Choose a time and place that's conducive to conversation. It's probably not best to start off a conversation about abortion in the narthex between services, nor would it be wise to do so ten minutes before bed. Choose a time that is flexible for you and your teen - one where you can lengthen the conversation, if needed, and not feel rushed. It's also important to choose a place that is safe - one where your teen feels comfortable asking questions, exploring ideas, and sharing unpopular views. For most, that means a conversation that's one on one or with very few trusted onlookers.

3. Engage in conversation rather than a lecture. Teens are used to lectures, and they know exactly how to handle them - either listen and take notes or tune out. But conversations take some work - on both sides. Conversations require engagement. Asking questions like, "With the election coming up, I'm sure you've seen some abortion advertisements on your phone. What do you think about them?" or "When you think of all the arguments people give for abortion, are there any arguments that sound really convincing?" can be a good starting point. Asking questions also helps you gauge what your teen already knows and what he or she might be ready to learn. And when he or she answers, it's important to listen. Allow your teen to speak, to share things you might not agree with, and try ardently not to interrupt. Instead, of countering a point he or she has

made, ask the necessary questions to understand why he or she might hold a particular stance. Then figure out where you both can agree and start there. (For more ways to engage in conversation, see the C.A.L.V.A.R.Y. infographic at Y4Life.org here: <https://y4life.org/resources/education-resources/>)

4. Lead with the value of life. When you do respond, respond by affirming what is good about your teen's concerns. Perhaps he or she is responding to a desire for fairness and justice. Or maybe your teen has a desire to alleviate suffering. These are good desires even if they are connected to misguided thoughts. When it's your turn to speak, affirm those good desires and then reestablish the value of human life. Speak clearly about what makes life valuable. Human value does not depend on our beauty or intellect, our abilities or social groups. It doesn't depend on our size, level of development, environment, or degree of dependency. Human life is valuable because it has been created by God and designed in His image. Human life is valuable because it has been redeemed by Christ Jesus. Human life is valuable because the Holy Spirit desires an eternal relationship with each human being. The value of human life is wholly established and sustained by God Himself. (Check out the SLED test at <https://www.str.org/w/the-sled-test> or <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/pro-life/the-sled-test-four-top-arguments/>)

5. Don't forget the mother. For-life people often get accused of being fetus focused. And we can understand why. After all, abortions that are successful result in the death of an unborn child. But the truth is, abortion is harmful to the mother as well, not only physically but also mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Studies show that one abortion increases as woman's risk of pre-term deliveries in subsequent pregnancies. Women who have had one or more abortions are statistically more likely to experience anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation. They are more likely to experiment with marijuana and engage in excessive alcohol use. Research even shows an increased risk of cancer. Teaching youth how to best love a mother encountering an unexpected pregnancy not only requires upholding the lives of both mother and child, but it also



Talking to Teens, continued...

gives youth an outlet for their sincere and godly compassion. Teaching youth the truth about abortion's effects on a woman also provides teens with a foundation for answering pro-choice arguments with grace and compassion. (For more facts about the effects of abortion on mothers, check out abortion resources at Y4Life.org. <https://y4life.org/resources/abortion-resources/>)

6. Be ready for the hard questions.

There are two questions that almost always come up in my conversations about abortion with teens: What about abortion in cases of rape and incest? And what about abortion when the life of the mother is threatened?

In the first case, we can affirm that rape is horrific; it is a vile misuse of God's gift of the body both in terms of the aggressor, who uses strength and cunning to harm rather than uphold life, and in terms of the receiver, whose body is devalued, violated, and abused. And we can boldly stand with the victim on the side of justice. Those who commit heinous crimes like rape and incest should be held accountable in the courts. They should be punished to the full extent of the law.

And in love, we should also uphold the lives of the victims - both mother and child - in as many life-affirming ways as possible. That could mean providing food, clothing, shelter, medical, and spiritual care. It most definitely means not compounding the suffering of the woman who, if she is given an abortion, would be tasked with bearing the consequences of

abortion on top of the burdens she already bears. (For more information, see abortion resources and posters at Y4life.org.)

As to abortion in the case of the life of the mother, the answer is much less nuanced. As people of life, we uphold both lives. We allow the child to grow in the womb for as long as we can, and then we remove the child with the hope of sustaining and upholding his or her life. It's true, that a child born early might not survive, but we do whatever we can to make life possible. This approach is inherently different from an abortion. An abortionist does not value or try to preserve the life of the child. The child, if too large to be suctioned out of the womb, is removed bit by bit. The child's head is crushed and the body torn to pieces. An abortion is never a life-affirming choice.

7. If you can, be first. Establish yourself, especially if you're the parent, as the trustworthy expert on abortion in your child's life. Don't shy away from the hard stuff. If you don't have the biblical answers to your child's question, know who or where to go to in order to find them. Begin by talking about the value of the unborn with your kids first - before the world does. If you start speaking about how valuable life is when your child is little, you're laying a foundation you can come back to again and again when you need to address life issues, like abortion, in the future.

Most teens are hyper-aware of the social issues of the day - including abortion. And they recognize that

there are two sides (or more!) to every issue. While youth often have a pulse on society's stance, they sometimes find themselves tripping over their own. Providing compassionate and logical answers to the life issues of the day, is not only appealing to youth but also essential to their moral, social, and intellectual development.

Thanks be to God that He has placed you in a youth's life to share God's life-affirming answers concerning abortion! Please know that Y4Life (Y4life.org) and Lutherans For Life (lutheransforlife.org) are here to support your good work. Let us know how we can better equip you to be a Gospel-motivated voice for LIFE, and God bless your work with youth!

By Michelle Baumann
Director of Y4Life
Lutherans For Life



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(If you are in need of guidance for a discussion with younger children, you might find this [article](#) at the Life Issues Institute

Fostering Life...Life Song for Orphans

Do you know a family that is working toward an adoption? That is no small undertaking. One way for the church to come alongside such families is by helping with the initial expenses involved. Life Song for Orphans has helped Lutherans For Life of Illinois to provide that help to Lutheran families seeking adoption. They manage a fund that is available to such families, much like scholarships are available to students trying to fund their education. So far, the Lutherans For Life of Illinois' Fund has helped two families here in Illinois with their adoption process. We would love to see even more families re-

ceive this help as even more of the waiting children find loving Christians homes and have the opportunity to learn about adoption into God's family, as well.

If you would like to help in this endeavor, there are several ways you can. 1. When families in your church let you know of their plan to adopt, be sure to share information about the Lutherans For Life Fund at Life Song for Orphans.

2. Pray for the children in foster care who are awaiting forever families! Check out the prayer requests from Life Song for Orphans on the

last page of this newsletter and pray for these youngsters with us!

3. If you would like to contribute to the fund financially, you can mail a check to:

Life Song for Orphans
P.O. Box 9
Gridley, IL 61744

Be sure to note in the memo line: Lutherans for Life, IL #P576. That way the folks at Life Song will know what you want done with it. They help a lot of others, too, so it will avoid confusion

—LL

THANKS FOR YOUR GIFTS!

We really appreciate your support! Let's keep the Life-affirming attitude and share the love God has for us and all people. Let's gently give the word of forgiveness to those who are hurting and those who have hurt us...because love affirms life!

Lutherans in our state are disappointed and upset that so many in our society are continuing to cast fragile humans aside ... May God make us into Gospel-motivated voices for life!

Thanks be to God that He has paved the way through Christ for the gift of forgiveness and for us to belong to Him!

(Inspired by LFL-Kansas Newsletter)

Lutherans For Life of Illinois is a State Federation of Lutherans For Life, a 501c3 charitable organization dedicated to equipping Lutherans for becoming Gospel Motivated Voices for Life. We are on the web at <https://www.lutheransforlife.org/lfl-of-illinois/>

Send news items and prayer requests to the editor at: laeschfamily@gmail.com

Let your love affirm Life with Lutherans For Life

___ Yes! I want to join LFL...

Please select membership category

___ Annual ___\$35 ___\$50 ___\$75 ___Other

Any amount is welcome!

Note: Membership Contributions are shared with LFL Chapters and State Federations.

___ **Sponsor:** I commit to a monthly gift of ___.

___ I'm not interested in membership, but am enclosing a contribution of ___ to support the work of LFL.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Congregation _____

Church body ___AALC ___AFLC ___CLBA ___ELCA ___LCMS ___Other

Send to: Lutherans for Life, 1101 5th Street, Nevada, IA 50201

Or donate online at www.lutheransforlife.org

Let's Pray!

1. Pray for Orphaned Children known to Life Song for Orphans:
 - "Praise God that Seth and Becky said "yes" to adopting a little boy.
 - Pray for more families in Bolivia to adopt older children and children with disabilities.
 - Pray for Shupiwe to continue excelling at school in Zambia so she can achieve her dream of becoming a surgeon.
 - Pray for our seven graduates in South Korea to transition well out of college and to continue to lean on God and trust Him.
 - Pray for our ministry leader in Ethiopia who is recovering from malaria.
 - Pray for good results for a student in Thailand who recently took her college entrance exam.



"Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

John 14:13

- Pray for an end to the war and for more orphaned and vulnerable children to know Jesus during this hard time in Ukraine.
- Pray continually for peace and stability around the world, especially in places we (Life Song) serve ...
- Pray for families pursuing post-adoptive counseling. Please pray for true and complete healing that comes through Jesus for the children, and for God's strength, heart, and mind for parents as they persevere to help their children."

2. Pray for Pregnancy Help Centers here in Illinois. God Grant their staff every help from the Comforter that would enhance their ministry, keep them safe from those who see their presence as a threat, and give each of them joy in the journey and many responsive families.
3. Pray for our lawmakers as they take up the assisted suicide issue. May God help them see that cheap "medication" that brings death is not an acceptable alternative to the cost of saving life.
4. Pray for our churches in Illinois that the joy of the resurrection will fill hearts to overflowing and that the Gospel will motivate many to become a voice for the voiceless!
5. Pray for one another, the For Life Community. May the love Jesus desires of us permeate everything we say and do!