



Summer 2025

# Every Life Is a Story



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# LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

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

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# Every Life Is a Story

by Pastor Michael Salemink



**T**he Holy Scriptures consist of more than one letter. Almighty God speaks creation in entire sentences. Human beings never occupy just a single moment. Every life is a story.

Every neighbor we encounter—no matter how that individual gets here—this one has meaning. Everything that person has done or won't do, however old or young, it has meaning. Whatever size and shape, she makes a difference, he brings blessings. Each of us amounts to more than assorted cells, isolated fluids, and random spasms. Human means—in every case—a character, with an emerging identity, disclosing a history, developing toward an intended destiny. Every life is a story.

Of course, all narratives have conflict. In fact, those complications give them their significance and their message. But none of us reduce to a mere impediment or obstacle. Not one of our kind represents just an accident or a condition or a threat. We all come—from the very first scribble (always a capital!) to the absolute last punctuation mark—as the handiwork and masterpiece of an Author in divine pride and delight. Every life is a story.

The disruptions and surprises actually testify to the intent. Even the earliest embryo carries trajectory, and even the most advanced ages embody momentum. Episodes become experiences and lessons. Mysteries blossom into discoveries and wonders. Interruptions turn out as transitions, seasons, and relationships. Always another page remains, one more chapter, and the circumstance that seems final in reality simply introduces the next possibility and the better opportunity. How sweet the inevitable resolution—after all, Christ is risen!—that more than makes up for the temporary troubles. Every life is a story.

We get to take part. We get to play roles. We get to witness front-row and participate firsthand.

**Life issues constitute invitations.**

**Come share.**

**Come belong.**

**When the lights go out, get ready for the show to start.**

**Every life is a story!**



## Who Are You?

by Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life



**“Who are you? Ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh! I really want to know!”** (“Who Are You?” The Who, 1978) Are you singing it with me? In today’s world, people are apt to tell you more than you want to know about themselves—or tell you what they think you want to know! Just look on social media!

So, what’s your story? What defines you as a person? Is it your job? Your power or your wealth? Is it your high school (that’s a St. Louis thing!) or which Concordia you attended? In 1517’s *Bible Study in One Year*, Chad Bird tells us in his discussion of Revelation 1 that *God* gives us our identity: kings and queens and royal priests. Revelation 1 describes Christ as a royal priest and that’s our identity, too, because we are in Christ. We are royal since Adam and Eve ruled the garden and priests since Jesus stood there in John’s vision in His royal robes. How then should we live?

**“I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord”** (Psalm 118:17).

This is the mission of LFL: Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. Because we are royal priests, we need to be proclaiming the Gospel message that Christ died and rose again to pay for the sins of all—“recounting the deeds of the Lord.” Nothing else really matters because nothing else will really make a difference. Without a proper understanding of the Law and the Gospel, abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, human trafficking, stealing, lying, etc. can be completely acceptable.

Our task is to make sure that our fellow Lutherans and our neighbors know how much God loves us just as we are. Look at this fingerprint. God made each of us unique. There is no one else just like you. God knew you before you were born (Jeremiah 1:5). He knitted you together in your mother’s womb. You were fearfully and wonderfully made, and God had a plan for your life even before you took a breath in this sinful, beautiful world that He created for you (Psalm 139: 13-16). Even with all our sins, and even our rejection of Him, God is patiently loving us and calling us back to Him through the Holy Spirit. That’s your story, friends. Go out in

your God-given identity as a king or a queen and a priest. Don’t go in fear and trembling, because when He calls you, he’ll be with you!



**“Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say”** (Exodus 4:12).



## Our Next Executive Director

Lutherans For Life is delighted to announce that Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske has accepted the divine call to serve as the next Executive Director of Lutherans For Life!

Dr. Fenske began his duties with LFL on May 1. On accepting the call, Dr. Fenske said, "I pray that God will strengthen and equip me to serve faithfully for the benefit of His Church."

The Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske is a 2011 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Since that time, he has served as the pastor of two dual parishes in the North Wisconsin District – LCMS, where he has been active in several different pro-life organizations. Dr. Fenske earned his Doctor of Ministry in 2019, again from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. He and his wife, Marie, have four daughters—Madison, Alexis, Hailee, and Marta—along with two grandsons, James and Rustyn.

Please pray for Dr. Fenske, his family, and the Lutherans For Life community that our Father would bless this time of transition, and our Savior would continue to abundantly provide for the needs of His people at Dr. Fenske's present congregations.

The outgoing Executive Director of Lutherans For Life, Pastor Michael Salemink, will soon transition to a new vocation of service to the Church. The details will become public once final. Pastor Salemink said, "A delightful decade is drawing to an end. It makes me somewhat sentimental to reflect on what the time together with Lutherans For Life has taught me. No doubt I have learned far more than I have delivered and gained well beyond what I've given."

Pastor Salemink will be assisting with the transition to the new Executive Director through the end of May.



# Your Life Is Now Changed

by Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan



It has been said, “You never know where you are going until you have been there.” Sometimes, the path of life takes a startling turn.

The frightened young woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant knows that. The husband or wife who endures increasing strain and struggle in looking after a spouse with dementia knows that. A person who has just received a terminal cancer diagnosis knows that.

Peter knew that, too. He thought he would just spend an ordinary night doing his usual work as a fisherman. But though they fished all night long, they caught nothing. It was at daybreak when things took a very unexpected turn.

## The resurrected Jesus called to them from the shore.

At first, they don’t even recognize Him. Only when Jesus tells them to cast their nets to the right side of the boat, followed by pulling in the net full of fish, do they realize who it is.

## “It is the Lord!”

John says to Peter in great joy, as typically impulsive Peter plunges into the water and swims quickly to shore, leaving the other disciples to drag in the heavy load of fish—153 in all.

And then, what does Jesus do? He sits and eats with them.

Jesus is with us still. He has given us His promise. He will abide with us always—in His Word, in Holy Baptism, and in the Holy Supper. Thus, we know that our risen Lord is always present with His abundant grace and mercy.

And so, our life finds its meaning in Him. Our path is directed by Him. Our future is secure in Him. Though life may take a very unexpected turn, whether with a pregnancy, an illness, depression, or sudden loss, there is hope, there is peace, and there is comfort in the compassion and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us.

It is only the **BLOOD OF THE LAMB** that can take away the sin of the world. Whether the sin of aborting one’s child, or the sin of remaining silent and not speaking on behalf of our unborn children; whether the sin of neglecting an aging parent, or even—God forbid—encouraging them to consider physician-assisted suicide as an option; whether the sin of apathy toward the gross evil and immorality in the world—turn to Jesus! There is forgiveness to be found for every sin, but it is *only* found in Jesus. Only in that holy blood, shed for us on the cross, do we find the antidote for the poison of sin. **AND NOW CHRIST IS RISEN.** He is *for* us, and He is *with* us, exactly where He promised to be, in His Church through His Word and Sacraments.

The Lord, who rose from the tomb, having conquered death and hell, is now with us always. That is the blessed message of Easter!

In Australia, on the tomb of the Lutheran theologian Hermann Sasse are engraved these words in Latin:

**“TUIS FIDELIBUS, DOMINE, VITA MUTATOR, NON TOLLITUR.”**

That translates as *“To Your Faithful, O Lord, Life Is Changed, Not Taken Away.”*

Your life is now *changed* in Christ. No matter what you have done, or where you have been, in Christ, your life is changed. The risen Jesus intercepts you on your journey. In the waters of Holy Baptism, He splashed you with His saving blood. You are given new life. When you die, death will not take that life away. The grave will not hold you. Your body will be *raised*. It will be *changed*. It will be *glorified*.

Thus, we pray:

*Dear Lord, calm our anxious fears. Soothe our weary spirits. Heal the guilt and shame of those whose lives have been marred by the darkness of abortion. Unite us in joyfully defending life, including the unborn child, the frightened woman, the depressed and suicidal soul, the sick and suffering, and those who may be at life's end. Grant us compassion. Grant us the joy of Your salvation. Defend us from all fear, as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, until that blessed Day when we reach the shore of the fresh new land beyond, where we will celebrate that Feast which never ends. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



## Part of the Story

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life



When the time was right, He created you.

I love stories, don't you? From sweeping sagas of adventure to rags-to-riches tales, I love all of them. And I think I always have. The truth is, I don't remember a time in my childhood without stories. What I do remember, though, is that it was my mother who engendered in me a love for story first.

One of my earliest memories is of my mom bravely carting three children under the age of five to the library on a weekly basis. Together, we checked out mountains of books and lugged them home in canvas totes and backpacks, eager to hear the tales they held. Each night after baths were done, we'd snuggle up together on the couch as Mom read to us. Wrapped in warm blankets, hair wet and smelling of Johnson & Johnson baby shampoo, she'd take us on adventures. Together, we'd meet biblical heroes, and unicorns, and baby birds, and talkative tow trucks. Together, we'd gasp in surprise and rejoice in happy endings. Together, we'd make memories.



Dad told stories, too. As we helped him rake leaves or collect marigold seeds for the next season, he filled us with stories of adventure—dirt forts, and playing tricks, and spooky nights in the woods. And when it was naptime, he'd lie on my twin bed, my brother tucked under one arm and me tucked under the other, and he'd read us stories from Sesame Street or Bugs Bunny or Popeye, imitating their voices perfectly.

Yes, almost all of my earliest memories involved stories. And not just from my parents. My grandma told stories of the depression and life on a farm; my grandfather shared stories of time spent in the navy, of deep clear lakes, and of mountain lions. My aunt, a nurse in birthing and delivery, told me stories of mothers and babies.

Stories. They shaped me. They influenced my career choice. And they are still one of my favorite methods for teaching today. Why? Because good, lasting stories ultimately disclose our sinful human condition; they clearly show mankind's need for a Savior.

Just as powerful, we can relate to stories because, whether we know it or not, we are part of the greatest story ever told. The one that's still unfolding. The one that will last forever. We're part of God's story—the one He's writing—the story of salvation. And because we're in God's story, our story begins even before we were born.



Your story actually began before the creation of the world when God decided He would form you for this time and this place. And because God is good and loving, once He made that decision—to create you as a gift to the world—He began preparing to give you gifts.

He created light and air, water and vegetation. He created land. And all of these gifts were necessary for your life.

But He didn't stop there. He located the light in sun, moon, and stars so that farmers would one day know when to plant and when to harvest, so that one day you would know when to rest and when to rise. And God continued His preparations by creating birds, fish, and land animals of all kinds—all to uphold human life. All to uphold your life.

It's at this part of the story, as it is in every good and true story, that we're introduced to the villain. And this villain, Satan, was devious. Knowing he was no match for God, he attacked the creation God loved most—His son and daughter, both made by hand and both dearly loved.

Wily as he was, Satan convinced God's beloved they weren't enough. They could be much more; they could even be gods themselves, knowing good and evil. And because they were convinced they could write their own stories, write a better story than the one God had in store, they changed the trajectory of the plot. They created conflict that could only be resolved by death.

**But God did not give up.** He kept writing the story of love, the story that would one day include you. He met their sin with His promise: He would send His Son to pay the price. Jesus would come and Jesus would die so that God's beloved children would live.

**And Jesus followed the storyline.** He humbled Himself and took on human flesh. He lived a perfect life and died a perfect death to pay for sin. His work righted the story arc; it resolved the conflict and solidified the ending. Jesus rose again, the firstborn of the dead, so that you might live.

**But God was not ready to bring you into the story quite yet; He had more gifts to give.** He created faithful saints to bear witness to Him, established governments, and made medicines. There were roads to be built and homes with heat and running water to be crafted. He raised up pastors to preach and teachers to teach—more gifts that would be given to you.

**And when the time was right, He created you.** He gave you a mother and father, siblings and cousins and friends. Even now He provides you a home and shelter, food and clothing, and all that you need in body and soul. All this He does because He loves you.

Your story picks up in this chapter of history. And it is in this chapter that He will work in and through you, just as He did through saints of old, not only to uphold your life but also so that you might uphold the lives of others. Your life is valuable, and your life has purpose. It was not an accident; it was planned from the beginning.

But that doesn't mean it will be easy. You will experience hardship and suffering. As you age, your body will wear out. Your mind will dull. Your abilities will lessen. And yet, it is in your body with all of its brokenness that the Holy Spirit resides. It

is this, your body, that God the Father formed by hand, and it is this, your body, that Jesus, God's Son, redeemed. And your body, a unique and miraculous gift, will be raised from the dead and made new.

**Human lives are short; they fill mere pages in the book of time God is writing.** And because of this truth, we may be tempted to think that one life, our life even, is insignificant in the story as a whole. We play small roles, after all; we engage in tiny vocations. Perhaps we're not needed. Maybe we're even convinced that our life is, in the grand scheme of things, meaningless. This, too, is a temptation of the wily one. Once again, he is at work to convince us, God's beloved, that we are not enough.

**But the story God's writing doesn't lie.** We are the reason Christ came. His precious blood proclaims that every human life is inherently valuable. And even if our lives were mere moments, they would still matter because they are miracles, miracles brought about by God Himself.

Miracles happen in moments. Like the moment an egg and sperm are brought together to make a new, unrepeatable and irreplaceable human life.

Like the moment a baby is brought to faith in the waters of Baptism and made an heir of the kingdom of heaven.

Like the moment Jesus feeds us His own body and blood so that we might have both forgiveness and life.

Someday our pages will come to an end even as God's story arc continues. And just like all of the best and true stories, our story is certain to end well. Yes, there will be loss and sadness for those left behind, those who still have work to do and parts to play, but there will also be joy. There will also be hope. There will also be promise.

The psalmist reminds us of this promise when he proclaims, **"I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord"** (Psalm 118:17). Indeed, we shall. Whether we live or die, Christians proclaim the goodness of the Lord.

We not only rejoice in the gift of this life, but we also rejoice in the gift of the next because we know how the story ends. Heaven is our home, and Jesus is coming again to take us there. To the world, death looks like an end. But the Christian knows that death is part of the story. It is the last enemy we face; it is the darkest hour before dawn. But because of Christ, dawn will come.

May we, like Job, rejoice in the life, hope, and victory that is ours in God's eternal story:



**"For I know that my Redeemer lives,  
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.  
And after my skin has been thus destroyed,  
yet in my flesh I shall see God,  
whom I shall see for myself,  
and my eyes shall behold, and not another."**

*Job 19:25-27*

## Learning in the Womb, Learning from the Womb

### from Creation Moments

January 22, 1973, marks the disastrous turn in American law that granted women the so-called right to kill their unborn babies. The Bible makes it abundantly clear that the unborn child is a human being who is known and loved by God as He knits it together in the womb. Science knows that even when it is a single fertilized cell, the unborn child is uniquely human. Now science is learning the truth of what the Bible has told us all along about the individual human nature of the unborn child.

Research is confirming that even before birth, children in the womb are learning about the world. The child in the womb does much more than simply hear sounds, including its mother's voice. The child also becomes familiar with odors in the outside environment.

To test what newborns were thinking, scientists very cleverly hooked up a pacifier to a tape recorder. They then rewarded a particular sucking pattern with various sounds, such as mother's voice. They found that the infants would concentrate on a pattern that would produce their mother's voice. In another test, women's voices, and even their father's voices, were not favored over mother's heartbeat—a familiar sound in the womb.

Even science is beginning to agree that life in the womb is nothing less than a normal stage of human existence. Like every other stage of life, life in the womb includes learning new things and developing relationships. If only this knowledge was applied to the abortion debate.

**“Hast thou not poured me out as milk, and curdled me like cheese? Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews” (Job 10:10-11).**

*Prayer: Dear Father, I ask that You would not turn Your face from us because of the millions of infants killed by abortion. Millions of Your people reject abortion. Grant us strength to uphold Your truth wisely and end the deaths. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

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## My Story

by Chrissy Tritch

**M**y name is Chrissy Tritch.

I work for Coalition Life as a sidewalk counselor, and this is my pro-life story. I'm not post-abortive, but if it wasn't for God's perfect timing and my beautiful, intelligent mother, I would be. At the age of twelve I found myself angry, scared, confused, and pregnant with my stepfather's baby. Mom immediately made for the nearest pay phone to schedule an appointment with a trauma therapist.

I remember my grandfather in the kitchen telling me he loved me and wanted me to have a bright future. He recommended I "take care of the problem" and handed me a check.

That's when I heard Mom clear her throat behind him. She calmly walked over to me, took the check, tore it up, threw it in the sink, and asked him to leave so she could speak to me alone about the matter. He started to protest, and she said she had no problem calling the police. That convinced him to walk away.

At first, I was angry. I couldn't understand how she could stomp all over the only solution that had been handed to me—to us! I screamed at her and ran to my room.

About an hour later, she came in and sat on the bed. "I know you don't understand right now, sweetheart, but that was the right thing to do for you and the baby you're carrying. Do you need a little more time alone, or are you ready to talk?" I told her I'd be ready after the boys went to bed. She said, "Okay, Jesus and I, we love you and your baby, Chrissy."

That night we sat across from each other at the kitchen table sipping chamomile tea. She said, "The way I see it, you have two choices. You can let me help you raise this child, or we can look into adoption. But I love you too much to let you walk into an abortion facility and kill your child—my grandchild. It will only add to the pain you've already been put through."

I looked at her and said, "Add to the pain? They're doctors and nurses, Mom. It's a clinic. They help people." "No, they don't," she said. "They prey on vulnerable people for money. Abortion is unnatural and vicious, and there are very real mental and physical consequences for it. Women who have them aren't happy or healthy. I've taught you about the Lord, and this isn't what He wants. 'Thou shalt not kill,' remember? I know this is scary when you're only twelve. I'll be right there with you through everything no matter what, I promise."

"I think it's time to tell you about your birth because you need to know just how powerful and wonderful God is. I never told you before because during that time, I was angry with your dad and terrified of losing you, and I felt it was best left in the past."

**"It takes three to conceive a child: God, a man, and a woman. But most people think they have the right to leave our Creator out of that equation."** She refilled my tea and began. "I was 19 years old, separated from your dad, nineteen weeks pregnant with you, and living in my grandmother's laundry room. I went into labor, and they tried, but couldn't stop the contractions. The doctor told me there was no way you would survive outside of the womb, so my best option was to abort. I told



him he didn't know you wouldn't survive because he wasn't God. His job was to try to help you survive, and I expected him to do it. Then he proceeded to tell me that even if you lived, I would never be able to afford your care in the hospital. I told him, 'I'll figure out how to pay you.' He rolled his eyes at me, sighed, and said, 'Okay, we'll try.' You were one pound, three ounces when you were born. We could see through your skin, and some of your organs weren't developed all the way yet. You lived in the NICU for six months, and for the first two it was in the back, in a corner, under a dark light with a thin, dark sheet covering most of your incubator.

"I prayed day and night. I sat beside you five hours at a time singing and talking to you just so you'd know I was there. When Medicaid quit paying, I called my half-brother in California to get your grandfather's phone number. I hadn't seen or talked to him since we left him when I was four, but he is very wealthy, and I had to try to see if he would help us. I called him, and he got on his plane and came straight to the hospital. He paid for all six months of your care and gave me additional help when you made it home."

I just stared at her for a moment and said, "I'm sorry I even thought about it now, Mom."

I decided on adoption, and we narrowed it down to fifteen couples from around the world. Sadly, I miscarried at ten weeks. After all of that, my life spiraled out of control. To my mother's dismay, I married an abusive man who caused a stillbirth and six miscarriages. He even tried to beat me to death with a tire iron and a rubber mallet in front of our very young children. It took three years for me to get back to being a capable, functioning adult again, capable of relieving my children from foster care. Following that came an addiction to prescription medications. I got help to stop but then came a cancer diagnosis!

**Now I'm 47 years old. I've remarried—seventeen years next month—to a fantastic man with a ferocious love for spreading the Gospel.** My kids are grown and call him Dad, and we have three grandchildren. I have three struggles right now: PTSD, multiple sclerosis, and watching families go in and out of an abortion facility five days a week. Sometimes I am powerless because I know I can lead a horse to water, but I can't make it drink. Often the only thing left to do is pray for the ones who refuse to listen.

I've had people ask me how I could go through so much and not be angry with God. I just smile and say, "We victimize and are victimized because of sin, and for this reason we have Jesus. Why would I be angry at God when He's been right by my side, renewing my strength and bringing my kids and me through everything?"

**As long as you don't allow Satan to chip away at your faith, God will give you the strength to get through anything. God's peace, brothers and sisters.**



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

Great Wolf Lodge | Colorado Springs, Colorado

**Fearfully  
and  
Wonderfully  
Made**



**"I praise you, Lord for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14).**

Get equipped to deal with life issues with Gospel-motivated speakers at the Great Wolf Lodge in Colorado Springs for this three-day national event! The sweeping views of Pike's Peak in the conference center will inspire us as we hear testimonials from courageous For Life speakers.

This family-friendly venue offers the largest indoor water park in Colorado, along with dozens of engaging activities for children of all ages.

Registration includes access to all conference sessions, as well as breakfasts and dinners at the conference hotel. Note: Lunches and afternoons will be on your own to explore the area!

## **Registration Fees | [lutheransforlife.org/conferences](https://lutheransforlife.org/conferences)**

Early Bird – Adult (through June 30, 2025): \$100

Adult (July 1, 2025, and after): \$150

Students and Youth, 13 years old through college-age: \$25

Children, 12 years old and under: FREE

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**



## 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](mailto: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.

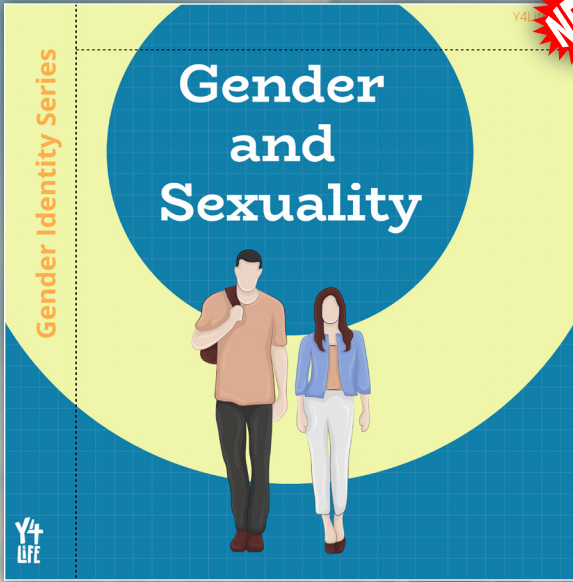


*Help your life event shine!*

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

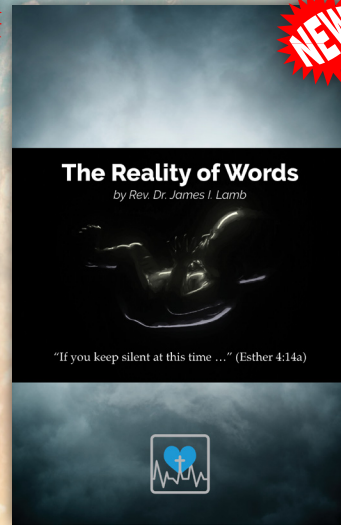
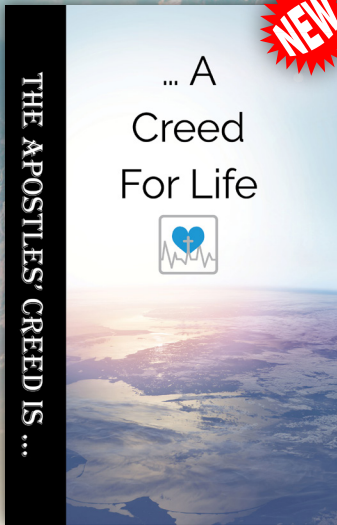
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**A Creed For Life – Item LFL1655. \$0.50 ea.**

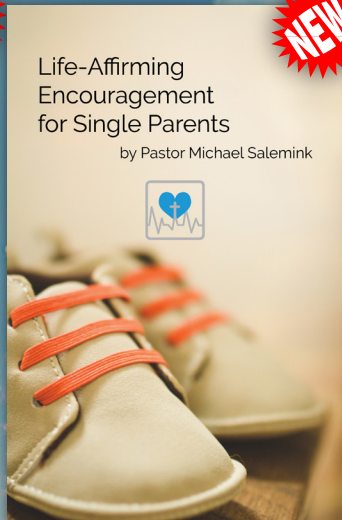
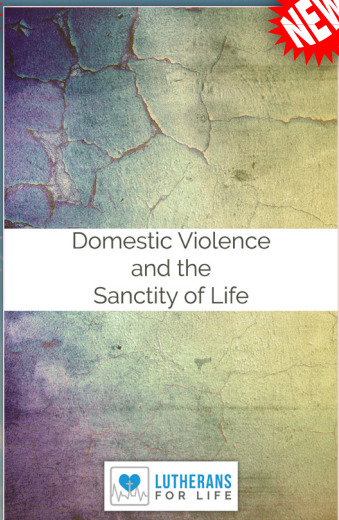
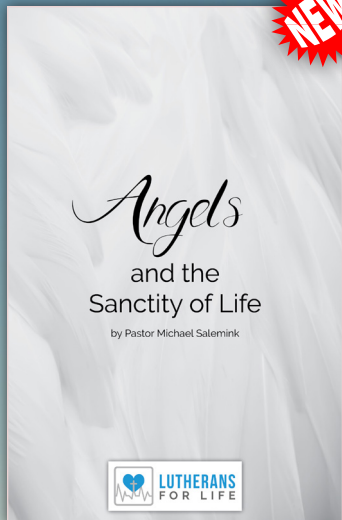
Inside this brochure are some pro-life thoughts  
on the creed and some related Bible passages.

**The Reality of Words – Item LFL105B. \$0.50 ea.**

Here is the reality of what abortion is and does:  
Abortion kills little girls and little boys in terrible  
ways before birth.







**Angels and the Sanctity of Life – Item LFL210B. \$2.00 ea.**  
**Domestic Violence and the Sanctity of Life – Item 311B. \$3.00 ea.**  
**Life-Affirming Encouragement for Single Parents – Item 312B. \$2.00 ea.**

**Self-Harm – A Word of Hope Brochure –**  
**Item WOH002. \$2.00 ea.**



**Order LFL Resources at [cph.org](http://cph.org) or 800.325.3040.** Shipping/handling applies to all orders. Quantity pricing on select resources.



**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](http://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](http://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](mailto:proliferealestate@yahoo.com) for more information. **[realestateforlife.org](http://realestateforlife.org)**  
**[lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life](http://lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life)**



**Frontline Call** – For all LFL Frontline volunteers! Monday, July 14, 2025 – 7:00 p.m. CDT/8:00 p.m. EDT. 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](http://word-of-hope.org)  
[info@word-of-hope.org](mailto:info@word-of-hope.org)



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



## Your Ministry Partnership Matters!

**L**utherans For Life cherishes your support in our education, advocacy, and life-affirming endeavors. Your faithful and unwavering partnership is making an impact in the hearts of all people and the lives of their neighbors. Listed below are examples of the many ways your financial donation might be used to assist our Gospel-motivated, life-affirming work.

### Gospel Motivation – (\$250 - \$500)

- One Word of Hope spiritual care session.
- Resources for Y4Life Youth Encounter events in 2025.
- Professionally print 100 LFL brochures.
- Professionally print 100 LFL infographics.
- One month of Hope Day Wednesday Prayer videos.
- Maintain the 24/7 Word of Hope hotline for one day.



**LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE**

### Gospel Transformation – (\$500 - \$750)

- Lutherans For Life, Word of Hope, and Y4Life website maintenance.
- Word of Hope nine-week Christ-centered mindfulness course.
- Publish and print Word of Hope spiritual care resources.
- Professionally print 100 Lutherans For Life books.

### Gospel Proclamation – (Over \$750)

- Develop and publish new LFL brochures and infographics.
- Develop one Frontline Playbook in the series (print, video, and online).
- Word of Hope video production of online training materials.
- Host a Spotlight on Life event with a LFL staff member speaker.
- Travel expenses for presenting and exhibiting in 2025.
- Sponsor a Y4Life retreat or Summit in 2025.
- Sponsor a YA For Life (young adult) retreat in 2025.
- Production of Volunteer Relations Frontline help videos.
- Develop training materials for Life Chapters, Life Teams, and Life Advocates.
- Mail our "LifeDate" journal to 2,500 individuals + 500 congregations.

If you would like to partner with LFL and our efforts to uphold life from fertilization to forever, please consider an online gift at [lutheransforlife.org/donate](https://lutheransforlife.org/donate) or mail your donation to Lutherans For Life, 1101 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Nevada, IA 50201-1816.

**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](https://www.iGive.com/LFL).



**iGive.com**<sup>®</sup>

Change online shopping for good.



# Gospel-Motivated Goodbyes

by Pastor Michael Salemink



Sometimes the sanctity of life means goodbye.

**I**t takes an open heart and empty hands to receive. Getting hold of the life right in front of us as a gift and a privilege can include letting go of our own desires, designs, and demands. Surprise pregnancy, terminal diagnosis, and other life issue situations often come with griefs.

But grief has a sacred dimension. The Lord Himself laments in the Scriptures, and even Jesus wept. It testifies that persons, relationships, and experiences have mattered. Somehow lives need sharing and not just asserting, and selves need belonging instead of only indulging. Goodbyes become holy when they affirm one another's worth, purpose, and servanthood.

After ten years as your Executive Director, I'm moving on. Our Gospel-motivated voices have to articulate (at least a kind of) a goodbye to each other. How shall we pronounce it? Perhaps the following few reflections can apprehend and encapsulate a sanctity-of-life way to say goodbye.

**This hurts.** The one Father-Son-Spirit God made humankind in His image for togetherness. We actually have severe allergies to distance, division, and death. Our hearts need connection and unity even more than independence or autonomy. The ache, the anxiety, even the anger of separation remind us of it. And our Lord and Savior mourns it with us.

**I'm sorry.** Only sinfulness pulls us apart, and my own fallen nature has contributed to it. My vanity and my transgressions have tarnished the interactions we've had. You and I have encountered, endured, and at times even inflicted difficulties. Please forgive every way in which I haven't celebrated or safeguarded your dignity.





**Thank you.** Your life has embodied heavenly blessings. Your character has brought me irreplaceable delight. Your presence draws and drives me away from slavery to myself and into relief and freedom. Your fellowship has become an agent and expression of God's own grace. Rather than resenting or deserving your company, I remain indebted to you for it.

**I'll not forget you.** Our Creator Incarnate has configured us for leaving fingerprints and signatures just like He does. Every personality, every identity and history and destiny, consists in part of the imprints neighbors have left. I'm keeping pieces of you, and you're taking some of me. Humanity just works that kind of magic. Your being and your doing have changed me for the better.

**Go in peace.** I hold no ill will toward you. The abundant love of the Lord Jesus Christ more than makes up for any mistakes or failures. In trust I surrender my priorities and plans to His wise timing and His good and gracious will. I know the call of God is carrying us both to something greater.

**I can't wait to see you again.** I'm already looking forward to the reunions promised in the Gospel of resurrection to everlasting life in the innumerable multitude of the new heavens and earth. The arms and intersections of Christ's cross make every parting only temporary. Completion of the good work He has begun in us will include meeting over and over forever and ever.

**Into the Father's hands I commend.** He who introduced us cannot fail to preserve, protect, and provide for us still. Whatever He has devised for each of us, and however He will direct us to it, far exceeds anything we could intend or imagine. Even in absence I will not disregard you, because I will pray for you constantly as we continually watch and reach for the same communion of saints.



Pastor Salemink—wearing a stocking cap—with the LFL staff at our February retreat in Galena, Illinois.

## Those Special Moments ... That's My Story!

by Virginia J. Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you" (Jeremiah 29:11-12).

**I**t would be easy to think back on my life and dwell on some of the hardships, mistakes, and disappointments. But who wants to do that? It's no fun and it takes joy out of life. Yes, I wish I hadn't done that or said that or wish that just hadn't happened to me, and I would have avoided a lot of personal misery. Yet, God showers us with His grace, and through His love and forgiveness, He gives us the strength to move on.

I love the words from Jeremiah where God makes it clear as He says He has plans for you and me. "Declares the Lord" is not a casual statement. He is declaring it! That's like shouting it out—He means business! Because of God's plans for me, I can come to Him in prayer, and He then makes another announcement: "And I will hear you."

It's not just a matter of He "maybe" will hear me; He makes it clear He "will" hear me. That affirmation has always stuck with me because there is never a time when I pray that my prayer is not being heard. It doesn't mean I always get what I want, but I am assured God is there to protect me and will guide my life in the right direction if I turn to Him.

In my life, I have had many opportunities to call on the Lord for guidance. Sometimes I have been in the process of major life-changing decisions and, at other times, I was struggling to find the right answers for what others may see as a "what's the big deal" situation. Let me share a couple of those special moments.

For fifty years I was a church choir director. I had the good fortune of doing that at three different churches. I made every effort to select music that clearly supported the lessons for the day. In my early days, I didn't have the computer where all the music was listed and linked to Bible verses. I had a file cabinet or a listing of song titles at a music store, where I spent many hours going through their myriads of music sheets sorted by a particular church season or festival and again sorted by Unison, SA, SAB, SATB, women, men, children, and so on. After a period of time, I knew what was in my church files, since I was the one that put them there, and I had studied each one of them during my tenure. Since this was a part-time career, time was always a factor.

I learned to turn to the Lord, asking Him to guide me in the selection process. And it always hit me, mostly during the worship service after listening to the readings in that service and hearing the choir sing those words to the beautiful melodies, that the song was a wonderful fit. After worship the choir members often confirmed that, and even a congregant would make a comment that our anthem was meaningful to them. That wasn't my doing, it was the Lord. He was there through the entire process leading the way; all I had to do was ask and follow. I will never forget those special moments, as God has been good to me in my life's story.

Prayer is a valuable and power tool God has provided. In my business career—and still today—I make it a practice to pray before entering an important meeting: “Please God, give me the right words to say.” That’s how simple that prayer can be. If I forget, I can have regrets. I have the privilege to make presentations on the work of Lutherans For Life. I have done this many, many times over the almost twelve years since I joined LFL. I can’t tell you how many times words came to mind during my talks that I never thought of during my preparation. When it happens to me, I know the Lord had a plan for my talk that required His intervention to give me the guidance needed to say the right thing. When that happens, I am keenly aware and my entire being feels the joy. God has been good to me in my life’s story.

Everyone’s life is special as God created me and you uniquely to fit His plan. I hope and pray you, too, have those special moments in your life’s story that bring joy and fulfillment as you serve the Lord!

## Want to be a voice For Life?



## Lutherans For Life can help YOU!

*Serve all people in all generations ... they are God's children For Life!*

### THREE WAYS TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!

- **It only takes one!** A Life Advocate works with their pastor to share God's love For Life!
- **Grab your friends!** A Life Team is a group of life-affirming volunteers at church creating meaningful and fun ways to support life!
- **Strength in numbers!** A Life Chapter is one or more churches working together to impact their communities.

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



*... from fertilization to forever*



## Fear Not ... You Are Mine

by Barbara Lane Geistfeld, D.V.M.



The theme for our Lutherans For Life Sanctity of Life Sunday for 2025 is "Life Shines in Darkness" and is based on John 1:4-5: **"In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."** His life is the light of the world! And since we have been baptized into Him, and His life is in us, we, too, can be a source of light to the world as our own life shines in the darkness. Our voices can proclaim the wonderful news that human beings are special to God. Did you know that human beings are the masterpiece of God's creation?

We have all read the creation story in Genesis 1. In verses 3-4 we read, **"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. And God saw that the light was good."** With each new creation, we read again, **"... And God saw that it was good."**

But something wondrous happens in verse 26: **"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness' ... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them ... And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good."**

Do you think the writer of Genesis, traditionally believed to be Moses, just accidentally slipped the word "very" into the text? Certainly not if you believe that God authored the Holy Scriptures through the Holy Spirit. We are told that our creation was *very good*.

Did you know that God is *still* creating new human life in His image today? Yes, we are all descended from Adam and Eve. Yes, we were all born from a biological mother and father. But human life is much more special than that. You and I were created individually, *on purpose, for a purpose* by the one true and Almighty God! In Psalm 139:13 we read: **"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb ..."** And the verse that astounds me is verse 16: **"... in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them."**

God planned our conception long before our parents ever did! Perhaps even from the beginning of creation. How special is that? Sin has made an impact on human conception: Babies are conceived that the parents do not want, and parents who desperately want children do not conceive. Yet, *I do not believe for one moment* that there is *ever* an unplanned pregnancy. God personally knows every child even before conception. He has a plan to create, redeem, and call that child into a relationship with Him.

We now have ultrasound machines and endoscopic cameras that take magical photos of the baby inside a mother's womb, but they reveal what King David already knew thousands of years ago by the leading of God's Holy Spirit. There is a little human, *made in the image of God*, growing in that dark place. There is a *life* shining in that darkness.

God's Word in Genesis plainly tells us that we were specifically created by God to be His children, but sin destroyed that relationship. This relationship has been restored by the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. John 1:12 tells us, **"But to**

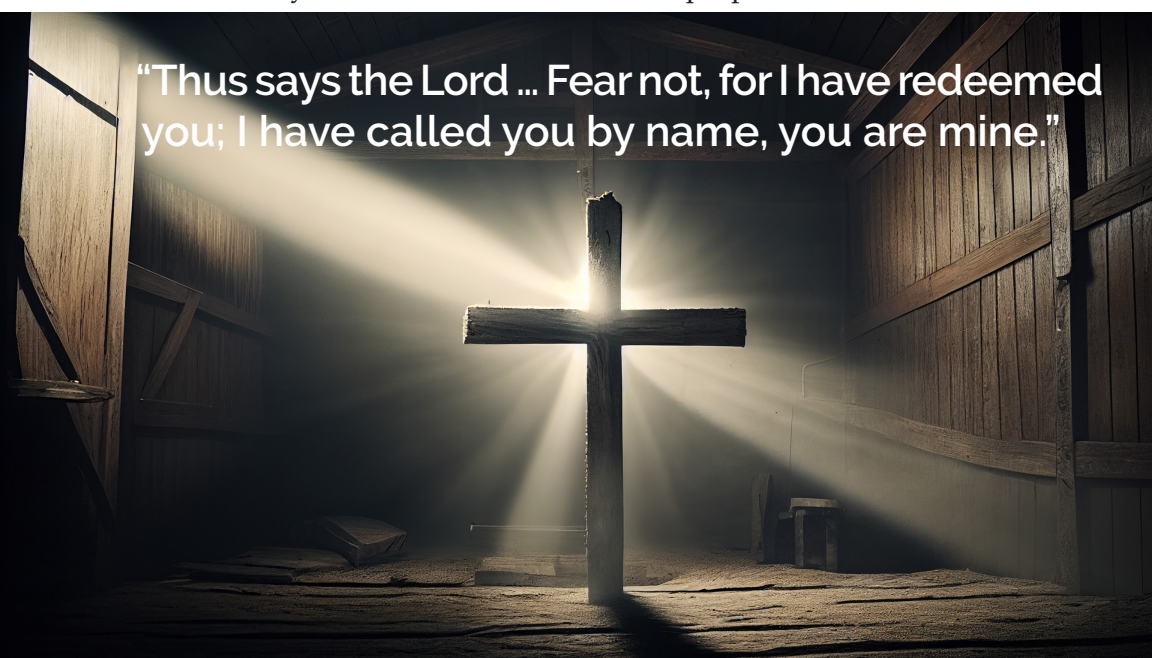


**all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”** It was cemented in our Baptism when we became members of the Body of Christ. Brothers and sisters of Jesus. Sons and daughters of the Almighty God!!! This should give every one of us goosebumps!!

God desires that this relationship with Him will deepen throughout our life, and He wants us to desire the same thing. We are called to be *lights*, to be *witnesses*, and to *bring comfort* to those who are suffering what we ourselves have suffered. We are called to *do good deeds* from our hearts. Ephesians 2:8-10 tells us, **“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”** This is the foundation of everything we as Lutheran Christians believe and are. As we read in Psalms, our human life is a gift. We read in Ephesians that our eternal life is a second gift. Life is a gift—period!

All of us, no matter our age, have had life experiences varying from traumatic to wonderful. I believe you and I can truthfully say that we have broken all ten of the commandments as Jesus interpreted them. So, what kind of light can we ever hope to be? What kind of life can we shine in the darkness? The one God gave us in Jesus, that’s what. *You and I are filled with the Light of Jesus, reflecting His grace and mercy.* You and I know better than anyone else what He has done for us in our lives. He has saved us, forgiven us, and cleansed us.

This is what our Lord asks of us: Be the life shining in the darkness that praises God with our lips, shows His love for others by our actions, and shares words of forgiveness to others as He first shared His words of forgiveness with us. Share the promise of the forgiveness of sins and eternal life that *we have received* to those who need this same hope and promise. And as you go about shining your life in the darkness, always remember the words of the prophet Isaiah:

A photograph of a wooden cross standing in the center of a dark, rustic interior, possibly a barn or a simple church. Light rays stream in from a doorway on the left, illuminating the cross and the surrounding wooden walls and floor. The atmosphere is solemn and hopeful.

**“Thus says the Lord ... Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.”**

## Meet Macy Froetschner | Y4Life Intern

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life



Getting to know our latest intern!

**Y**4Life is so excited to welcome an intern to our Lutherans For Life family this summer, and we thought you might like to get to know her, too! Check out her answers to our interview questions below!

### **Can you tell us a little about your family and where you grew up?**

Macy: I am the daughter of Jennifer and Jared Froetschner. My dad works in agriculture and my mom is a homemaker. I grew up in Garden City, Kansas, but moved to Indiana in high school and have lived here ever since.



### **What degree are you working toward in college?**

Macy: I am in the deaconess program at Concordia University Chicago, which is the only undergraduate deaconess program in the LCMS. I also have a minor in classical education.

### **What led you to want to work for Y4Life?**

Macy: I have now served as co-coordinator for CUC4Life at Concordia University Chicago for two and a half years. I loved this organization from the start because of the Gospel-motivated attitude toward life issues. I then applied for this internship because of its opportunities to grow in my Gospel-motivated voice for life. This growth will allow me to better serve my life group in the fall.

### **What areas of life ministry are you most passionate about?**

Macy: I am very passionate about homelessness, human trafficking, gender identity issues, and abortion.

### **Have you always had a passion for upholding life, or was there a specific instance that led you to be a Gospel-motivated Voice For Life?**

Macy: When I was fourteen I saw the movie *Unplanned* with my parents and became very passionate about upholding the lives of the unborn. As I grew in life ministry through my church, I realized how important it is to be Gospel-motivated for all lives, even the lives that disagree with us.

### **Not everyone agrees that human life is sacred. How do you handle opposition to this truth when you encounter it, especially among your peers?**

Macy: As Christians we are called to be hospitable to those who disagree with us, or maybe even feel hatred toward us. Part of being hospitable is listening to

someone and being truly present with them. As I encounter those opposed to the truth, I am certain to carefully hear their arguments and their story and then respond to them with the life-giving words of the Gospel.

**Okay, now it's time for some favorites. What is your favorite ...**

**Bible verse?**

Macy: Galatians 2:20

**Hobby?**

Macy: Reading

**Food?**

Macy: Sushi

**Podcast?**

Macy: Issues, Etc.

**Influencer?**

Macy: Christa Petzold

**Music?**

Macy: '80s/'90s country

**Television series?**

Macy: *The Office*

**Finally, is there anything else you'd like to share? Some little known fact or interesting uniqueness you possess?**

Macy: I am related to the Macys that started the department store!



***Look for Life Sunday and Life Week 2026 information this fall!***

# Life Thoughts in the Church Year

*Based on appointed readings from Lutheran Service Book*

**July 6 – Pentecost IV (Proper 9C)** – Our Lord Jesus Christ has the courage to speak warning to His country's culture and communities (Luke 10:13-15). He whose eyes keep watch on national happenings (Psalm 66:7) knows no other way to restore ones He loves. Only abandoning evil allows anyone to embrace the Gospel's comfort (Isaiah 66:13, 15-16!) and joy (Luke 10:19-20). May our sanctity of life witness follow His lead!

**July 13 – Pentecost V (Proper 10C)** – Aborting complicated pregnancies is like depriving the destitute by leaving not one last gleaning of hope (Leviticus 19:9-10). Euthanizing terminal loved ones is like striding right on by on the other side because the neighbor is dying (Luke 10:30-32). Almighty God clearly commands against both. But the Gospel of love for every life never fails to bear fruit wherever we dare to declare it (Colossians 1:6).

**July 20 – Pentecost VI (Proper 11C)** – Affirming the sanctity of every life means more than just ending abortion or opposing physician-assisted suicide. Sometimes it includes Gospel hospitality that sits and listens to neighbors about the crosses they carry (Luke 10:39). Bringing about death to dismiss and silence suffering may feel like a human right, but sharing one another's sorrows represents the better portion (Luke 10:42).

**July 27 – Pentecost VII (Proper 12C)** – Surprise pregnancies and terminal diagnoses involve more than just political controversies or worldly concerns. Human lives embody spiritual matters because they arrive as the work, purpose, and property of God's hands (Psalm 138:8). Who needs abortion or assisted suicide when the Heavenly Father urges us to ask for, expect, and await miracles (Luke 11:9-10)?

**August 3 – Pentecost VIII (Proper 13C)** – The Lord our God has made human lives His business (Psalm 100:3; Luke 13:20). That makes the sanctity of every human life the Church's business. Crucified and ascended Jesus Christ invites us to press even death into service – never the death of the neighbor's body, but rather the death of the sinful and selfish desires (Colossians 3:5) that lie behind abortion and assisted suicide.

**August 10 – Pentecost IX (Proper 14C)** – The Heavenly Father hopes for human offspring as numerous as the stars (Genesis 15:5) and countless as grains of sand (Hebrews 11:12). So Christians encourage our communities to share our joy in regarding children – no matter what size, skills, or circumstances – as more precious than any amount of income, possessions, or pets (Luke 12:22-24).

**August 17 – Pentecost X (Proper 15C)** – Proclaiming and practicing the Word of the Lord doesn't always make people glad (Luke 12:51-52). Discomfort and persecution come with speaking truth and showing love (Hebrews 11:36-38). But Almighty God's insistence on the sanctity of every human life, though occasionally unpopular,



# Life Thoughts in the Church Year

*Find One-Year Lectionary files at [lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-thoughts](http://lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-thoughts)*

always brings precisely the community, fellowship, and belonging that we all need (Hebrews 12:1-2).

**August 24 – St. Bartholomew (Proper 16C)** – Proverbs 3:8 promises that fearing the Lord and turning from evil brings healing to “your navel.” Belly buttons testify to gestation. Scripture’s prescription for surprise pregnancy encourages rejecting death. If the Apostle Bartholomew gave his very skin trusting in the resurrection body (tradition suggests his martyrdom flayed him alive), the Gospel leaves no room for “my body, my choice.”

**August 31 – Pentecost XII (Proper 17C)** – God in His glory disguises the sanctity of life so that we may know the joy of finding it (Proverbs 25:2). Great delight awaits those who search beyond appearances, behind ages, beneath abilities to receive every neighbor as a blessing. May we with both lips and fingers reach into sin’s hiding places to pull sons and daughters out (Luke 14:5).

**September 7 – Pentecost XIII (Proper 18C)** – Funny how the Almighty Maker invites (orders?) His people to choose life (Deuteronomy 30:19). By His creating, redeeming, and calling, life has already chosen us—and every single one of our neighbors—from fertilization to forever. Any dealings with death—like abortion and assisted suicide—diametrically oppose and dangerously depart from His express commandments.

**September 14 – Holy Cross (Proper 19C)** – Jesus made His cross a decidedly public proclamation, lifted up and appealing to everyone (John 12:32). Christianity knows nothing of private convictions and personal choices. We get to speak openly, courageously, and compassionately that no other deliverance exists (Psalm 40:10), not even abortion or assisted suicide. Every human life belongs to Him alone who has drawn all unto Himself.

**September 21 – St. Matthew (Proper 20C)** – First-century tax collectors like Matthew exploited their neighbors, their own kin, for personal profit. Yet Jesus in forgiveness and fellowship made them an illustration of how family ought to be treated (even when embryos or elderly relatives make us uncomfortable). Let us, like the repentant evangelist, proclaim how Christ crucified can release even from abortion’s guilt.

**September 28 – Pentecost XVI (Proper 21C)** – Abortion and physician-assisted suicide find their primary motivation in protecting leisure and luxury. The prophet Amos proclaims woe to such priorities (Amos 6:1), and the Apostle Paul warns Timothy that they invite evils (1 Timothy 6:10). Instead, we get to remind one another to “take hold of that which is truly life” (1 Timothy 6:19), namely the Savior and the neighbor right in front of us (Luke 16:20-22).

# Step Up 4 Life



#LIFESHINES



## Step Up 4 Life 2025 Update!

by Dave Probst, Director of Development



Our Step Up 4 Life campaign is far from over!

The fifth annual **Step Up 4 Life** campaign is in full swing, and God has graciously blessed Lutherans For Life and its mission to equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life—as we went to press—with over \$46,605 in **Step Up 4 Life** gifts from 253 donors!

Our **Step Up 4 Life** campaign is far from over, and we need your assistance to exceed our campaign goal of \$85,000 this year. You can participate in our **Step Up 4 Life** walking campaign as an individual, team, or congregation, leading a one-day **4 Life Day** congregational activity at your church, or providing a donation to Lutherans For Life. Our **Step Up 4 Life** campaign ends on June 24, and we need you to help us finish strong in 2025.

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 [stepup4life.org/2025](https://stepup4life.org/2025).

## I Step Up 4 Life

BECAUSE  
EVERY LIFE IS  
VALUABLE.



SIGN UP AT [STEPUP4LIFE.ORG/2025](https://stepup4life.org/2025)

## I Step Up 4 Life

BECAUSE  
EVERY LIFE IS  
LOVED.



SIGN UP AT [STEPUP4LIFE.ORG/2025](https://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](http://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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**65,464,760 babies have been killed in  
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