



LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE

## Affirming Life In Illinois

### Dealing with the Unknown

Have you had a hard time dealing with the unknown, be it the unknown future of how things will turn out in dealing with a crisis or the unknown illness of someone close to you? Read over 2 Corinthians 4:16 through 18... ALL our "momentary afflictions" mentioned in verse 17 is a huge understatement. They hurt when they happen to us. But they serve to highlight where our real hope is set: the real life of this Spirit is being renewed by the power of God. God's horizon is bounded by an eternal prospect in verse 18: "as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, (They don't last long in the eyes of God.) but the things that are unseen are eternal." With the eyes of faith in Christ one is enabled to see beyond the visible and tangible by which the adversaries at Corinth set so much store to the eternal realities of that world where God's glory shines in Christ. Since early December Marilyn and I and family members have wondered what sudden degenerative illness has caused Marilyn to have a sudden inability to walk without a walker. Dealing with the unknown can be very hard when it deals with yourself or someone close to you. Even

though these "momentary afflictions" are not slight to us, they are very "momentary" in God's eyes. Whether they are part of life's trials or tests from God, God wants to work through them to strengthen and renew or restore our faith in him IF WE LET HIM! "Trust in the Lord with ALL YOUR HEART, and do not lean on your own understanding. In ALL YOUR WAYS acknowledge Him, He will make straight your paths" (Proverbs 3: 5-6). I encourage you to pray daily over these words for God to help you put your full trust in Him and "make straight your paths." 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 following the 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's happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life" (Philippians 4: 6-7 in The Message Bible).

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" (Matthew 28: 20). You overcame sin, self and Satan through Your resurrection. Enable us to put our full trust in You to overcome all our fears, worries and anxieties. In Jesus name. Amen.

Pastor David Bottonorff, LFL of IL President

### Fearfully and Wonderfully Made...

In this issue, our focus is "I am fearfully and wonderfully made," from Psalm 139:14. David says, "I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." When we stop to consider the wonder of our own bodies, the intricacies woven into them from the

beginning, there is an almost automatic praise reaction. It is my prayer that this issue will give you reason to praise our Creator, as you consider the infinite wisdom demonstrated in His Creation of yourself. Psalm 139:14 is the theme verse for both the

National LFL Conference and the Lutherans For Life of Illinois summer Life Gathering to be held in Auburn, Illinois on August 23rd, 2025. Pages 8-9 includes information and the opportunity to register for this event. Can't wait to see you there! —LL

### Lutherans For Life of Illinois Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 1

Winter 2025

#### Save the date, Illinois

- \* Jan 19, Life Sunday
- \* Jan 19-25, LFL Life Week
- \* March 13-15, LCMS Mercy throughout Life Conference
- \* March 25, Springfield, Illinois March for Life

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# Life Comes in Chapters

What do you do when you learn that somebody in your community is doing something to support a Life-affirming ministry your group supports as well? When the Red Bud Lions hosted their annual "Spring to Life" BBQ, to benefit the local pregnancy care center, the Southwestern Illinois Lutherans For Life Chapter knew exactly what to do. They came along side with a bake sale to further support the pregnancy care center and to provide desserts for those attending the BBQ.

All proceeds from the bake sale and the BBQ go to the local pregnancy care center, LIFE NETWORK, with offices located in both Waterloo and

Red Bud, IL. The Southwestern Chapter includes members from three area churches. 5-6 bakers from St. John's Lutheran Church in Red Bud and Trinity Lutheran in Prairie usually provide goodies for the sale. Most of their bakers are members of the Chapter, but a few others have joined them when they read about the event on Facebook. Bakers generally bring the goodies directly to the BBQ half an hour before it officially opens.

Chapter leader, Jennifer Becker-Roscow and two or three other members of the Chapter sit at the bake sale table throughout the Spring to Life event. The event was held March 26, 2025 and raised over \$3,000 for Life Network.

Jennifer tells me this is not the only time the Chapter works on behalf of Life Network, however.

"We do a Baby Bottle project --- the baby bottles are provided by Life Network. I give them away on Life Sunday in January and collect them about 30 days later. Those who take the bottle fill it with change and drop it back off in a box at church. We are also an underwriter for Life Network's annual banquet. We have done baby items drive for them in the past but not recently."

Thank you, Southwestern Illinois LFL Chapter! God bless your service to your neighbors and the Lord of Life!

## Find a Chapter

**Altamont Area Lutherans for Life**  
(A new Chapter being organized in Altamont, IL Contact )

**Coles County Chapter LFL**

Meets 1st Tuesday of the month  
At St. John's Mattoon  
Contact: Velma Price,  
217-246-2553

**Dupage County Chapter LFL**

Meets as needed  
Contact: Beth Kraegel,  
630-279-0041

**Four -S Chapter LFL**

Meets 2nd Tues of Month  
At member homes  
Contact: Dale Wetherell,  
[dwet@hofnetinc.com](mailto:dwet@hofnetinc.com)

**Heartbeat Chapter LFL**

Meets quarterly  
At Trinity, Roanoke  
Contact: Trinity, 309-923-5251

**Illinois Valley Chapter LFL**

Meets via email and as needed  
At Salem Lutheran, Jacksonville  
Contact: Libby Nobis,  
217-491-3026

**McHenry County Chapter LFL**

Meets as needed  
Contact: Genny Hertel,  
815-568-8425

**Peoria Area Chapter LFL**

Meets 4th Monday of the month  
At Bethel, Morton  
Contact: Robert Wegner,  
309-481-4886

**Southwestern Illinois Chapter LFL**

Meets via Facebook & email  
Contact: Jennifer Roscow,  
618-972-5366

## Every Life is an Impossibly Unrepeatable Mathematical Miracle

Originally published as part of the local 40 Days for Life Campaign headed up by the Southwest Coalition, Inc....

"Imagine this: there are currently 8 billion people alive today, and an estimated 100 billion who have ever lived. With each human being, 23 chromosomes from a mother and 23 from a father combine in a unique way. What are the odds of your specific DNA being repeated? It's one in a nonillion—a one followed by 30 zeroes.

To grasp the enormity of this number, consider this: scientists estimate there are about 7.5 quintillion grains of sand on Earth. It would still take a trillion Earths to equate to a nonillion grains of sand, with you being just one of those grains.

Astronomers believe there are approximately 200 sextillion stars in the observable universe—that's 200 billion trillion stars! Yet, it would still take five million universes to match a nonillion stars, with you being one of those stars.

Scientists estimate the sun will die out in 5 billion years. Assuming human population growth continues uninterrupted, that's a maximum potential is 2.5 quadrillion humans. Even at this maximum, only 0.00000000000025% of all possible humans would have ever existed—meaning 99.999999999975% of humans who could exist will never exist!

The chance of any person's unique genetic code being repeated is never! The fact that you exist at all is a mathematical impossibility!

How much more tragic is it when a sin-

gle life is lost. Every life is sacred, not only because we are made in the image and likeness of God but also due to the miraculous improbability of our existence. **Let us cherish each unrepeatable life, advocating for a world that recognizes the inherent rarity, uniqueness, and value of every individual."**

By Mark Cavaliere,  
CEO Southwest Coalition, Inc.



# Lutherans For Life of Illinois Summer Life Gathering



Once again, we in Illinois are following the lead of Lutherans For Life as to the theme verse for our Summer Life Gathering "I am Fearfully and Wonderfully Made." from

Psalm 139. On August 23, we will gather at Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn, Illinois to explore Life Issues together.

We look forward to hearing from David Curtis of the Illinois Family Institute, with helpful advice regarding being effective in carrying out our civic duties for Life. How can we best help our state and local leaders see that we humans are ALL fearfully and wonderfully made and not to be devalued? Mr. Curtin will help us answer that question, coming to us with a background including many interfaces with Illinois government. Among those is writing legislation that made Illinois one of the first states to have written into their state law the definition of marriage as being between a man and a woman! Once upon a time...that was a given, but Mr. Curtin was watching events happening elsewhere and in the 1990's was able to convey this in such a way that our legislators passed it!

We also look forward to hearing from Kim Marxhausen, author of the book, Weary Joy: the Caregiver's Journey. In this book, Kim takes us through her

own journey as a caregiver and helps us see ways to grow as Christians through the process. She not only has personal experience to bring to the table, but has a background in psychology and a solid understanding of the Word of God, that she has been able to apply to the subject.

From the book: "Our memory systems are beautiful and intricate. The fields of neuroscience and psychology are just now creating models that help us understand how we learn and remember and how we forget. God's memory is more straightforward for us to describe. God remembers everything and He remembers it forever. He chooses to forget our sin, but He never forgets His children."

Kim will have copies of her book with her. If you find yourself in a caregiving role and would like some encouragement, or know someone who is in that situation, you will have the opportunity to purchase it from her. I found many practical suggestions, as well for those in "survival mode".

We will also be hearing from some wonderful people who dedicate every day of their working lives to furthering the cause of Life: Julia Heinz of Redeeming Life Outreach Ministry will be with us and will share news from the new maternity home in East Dundee, Illinois.

Elmi Patton, of First Step Women's Center in Springfield, Illinois, will share their work with those facing surprise pregnancy in Springfield. Jen Hall, of We are Called to Care ministry to foster families, will help us as the Church, to be the hands and feet of Jesus in caring for these precious little ones and the families who shelter them in foster care. We are so blessed to be able to hear what these folks on the frontlines have to say to us!

At last year's Summer Life Gathering, we received some requests for information on other specific end of life issues that were not included in the event. With those requests in mind, we will also be hearing from some experts in that area: John Talley, lawyer and LFL National Board member will explain the durable power of attorney for health care. Also presenting some specific information on end of life and funeral planning will be Pastor Wendorf, of St. John's Lutheran Church, Chatham, and the Jerry Curry, Director of the Curry Funeral Home in Pawnee, Illinois.

As always, we most look forward to seeing YOU face to face! It is not too late to register, if you have not yet done so!

—LL

## Voting with Your Pocketbook...vote for CPC support

I'm not a coffee drinker, but my family includes lots of them. So, when I heard about 7 Weeks Coffee, that became the source of Christmas gifts last year. Good coffee, I'm told. I do suggest that if you are gifting a serious aficionado, buy the beans and let them grind to the degree that works best with their coffee making system, however. It seems they are all a little different in their requirements for "perfect" coffee!

Here's the 7-Week story in the words of their founder::

"This mission started with a simple question: Why isn't there a pro-life coffee company? I searched, but nothing like it existed. I knew there was an opportunity to turn something as ordinary as coffee into something meaningful, so I brought the idea to my wife...

As we talked, she came across something incredible. **At seven weeks, a baby in the womb is the size of a coffee bean, with a heartbeat that can be clearly seen on an ultrasound.** That moment shaped everything. We knew this company wouldn't just be about great coffee. It would be about using something as simple as a daily cup to stand for life.

**Because of your support, we are now partnering with over 1,000 pregnancy centers across the country.** These centers provide ultrasounds, counseling, and life-saving resources to moms in need."

— Anton Krecic, Founder, Seven Weeks Coffee

Another Life-Affirming feature of this company is that they work directly with the coffee farmers who produce their products. As they exceed Fair Trade payment, they are not supporting slavery in another country. When we lived in rural Africa, the illiterate family farmers who sold coffee to itinerate coffee buyers were often cheated, because they couldn't decipher what the portable scales being used said about their coffee. In other areas, large companies use dehumanizing slave labor to provide a crop for export. Either way the farmer takes a hit. As an Illinoisan with a heart for the farm, and a For-Life Christian, I find it hard to take!

Those of you who were in Springfield for the Illinois Pro-Life March, saw something of the numbers we represent. I'm guessing every one of the couple thousand present knew half a dozen For Life

folks who because of work, physical limitations, or other obligations was not able to be there that day. And that was here in Illinois, one of the most anti-life states in the union! Considering that, we, the For Life Community, are an economic force to be dealt with! If we use that power of numbers, we can make a difference For Life by means of our purchasing choices.

Although I was looking for Christmas gifts, when I first sought out Seven Weeks Coffee, they also offer subscriptions for those who want coffee on a regular basis. The coffee is available in several different "roasts", ground or whole bean. You can look into it on their website: [Seven Weeks Coffee](http://SevenWeeksCoffee.com).





# Go Team!

Have you noticed that an inordinate number of our winning Illinois youth Life Essays come from Good Shepherd Collinsville? There is a reason for that. English teacher, Melissa Hasamear has worked tirelessly with the students at Good Shepherd Lutheran School to make this happen. The Life Team there didn't want her efforts to go unrecognized and has done something about it. They have nominated her for LFL's Teaching 4 Life Award.

Recipients of the award need to meet certain requirements:

- Uphold the sanctity of life in the classroom and outside of it
- Incorporate life issues into content material
- Support life work outside the classroom
- Exhibits care and concern for their students' lives
- Encourage youth to share the message that every life is valuable because it has been created by God and redeemed by Jesus.
- Be unafraid to confess the truth about the sanctity of life, even

when public opinion is opposed to this message, and is able to do so with a Gospel-motivated voice. He or she should actively mentor young people to do the same.

- Advance the mission of Lutherans For Life by equipping his or her neighbors, in particular his or her students, to be Gospel-motivated voices for life.

God bless the Lutheran Teachers who are Gospel motivated voices for Life! Part of encouraging our churches is recognizing what they are doing to affirm Life! Thanks for the idea, Good Shepherd Life Team!



## Three Pounds of Wonder...fearfully made

Illustra Media has a mission to reach evolutionists and skeptics for whom the Genesis account of creation is a stumbling block. Their approach is to help these individuals question their own assumptions and to consider the fallacies of the evolutionary theory of origins, as they present science that confirms an Intelligent Designer of all creation in the form of Nova-quality films.

One of the short films they developed this past year for their John 10:10 Project is about the human

brain. Although their purpose was to call into question the idea of random events that result in creation, I found this one fulfilled another purpose for me; as I watched, I found myself in awe of the Creator of the human body and the human mind. As we consider how we have been fearfully and wonderfully made, I hope by sharing the following link, you will also enjoy glorifying our Creator!



### [Three Pounds of Wonder](#)

"A single human brain has more switches than all the computers, routers, and internet links on our planet," says the film. Personally, I'm not sure you could contain all the computer switches of our one state in a 5 gallon bucket, much less have them functioning in that amount of space! What a Creator we have!

**Praise to the Lord of Life, who not only oversees all of infinity, but cares for the infinitesimal!**

## Good News for Life...



Birth Choice Adoption Agency Director  
Lisa Reasons in front of Birth  
Choice/Photo by Tiffany Dawson

Birth Choice, "A Tennessee pregnancy clinic is establishing an adoption agency among its service offerings, becoming one of just a handful of U.S. centers to do so....

### **God's providence**

[Lisa] Reasons began in her role with Birth Choice on January 20 of this year after completing her master's degree in social work and praying for new direction in her career. She learned about [Birth](#)

[Choice](#) founder and Director Brent Lambert and followed him on social media.

Reasons told *Pregnancy Help News* that she "felt a strong impression" to reach out to him last November and did so via Facebook Messenger. Lambert responded and invited her to come to his office at Birth Choice the following week. Upon meeting with him, Reasons learned that he and the organization's board had decided to pursue creating an adoption agency within the offerings of the pregnancy help organization and that they needed someone with a master's degree in social work to oversee it.

"The timing was ... well, you just can't make it up," she said.

Reasons is adopted and so is her son. She said for many years she's felt a burden for those without someone and a nudge to help those kids who are already here.

Reasons believes every Christian has a role in the arenas of foster care and adoption.

"It's not the state, it's not the government, it's not the world - it's we, the church, who are to take away the argument [reasons given for abortion, including child abuse and neglect]," she said. "We can't just say we're pro-life, we're pro-life by what we do. Everybody's part looks different, but we all have a part."

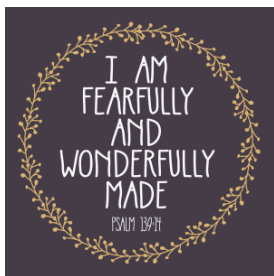
"There are lots of different ways to be involved," Reasons added.

From an article by Gail Irwin, published in "Pregnancy Help News", a publication of Heartbeat International, May 25, 2025.

### **Illinois News Flash:**

For the moment, the Physician Assisted Suicide Bill has failed in the Illinois Legislature. It was quietly added to a funding bill without witness slips, at the last minute, but in response to many letters, calls, and emails opposing it, the bill was not put forward for a vote. Information from an article by Barb Lyons in Life News.com; Watch and Pray, it still may find its way back for a vote in the future..

# 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)

Registration is now open! Lutherans For Life of Illinois will once again pay registration fees for pastors from Illinois who wish to attend.



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

## You are a Wonder

Despite your aches and pains, you are a living, breathing, walking, talking wonder. The psalmist said, *'You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made'* (vv. 13-14).

One author explains: 'Most of us take our eyesight for granted, but even the simplest of processes is divinely complex. The retina, for example, conducts close to ten billion calculations every second, and that is before an image even travels through the optic nerve to the visual cortex. The human nose can detect one-millionth of one milligram of garlic floating in the air and distinguish among ten thousand

distinct odors. The hairs blanketing your body magnify the sensation of touch so that you can discern a thousandth of an ounce of pressure on the tip of a half-inch hair. Amazing, isn't it?'

Trillions of chemical reactions are taking place in every cell of your body every second. You are inhaling oxygen, metabolizing energy, digesting food, maintaining equilibrium, purifying toxins, producing hormones, exhaling carbon dioxide, repairing tissues, and circulating blood. As you read this, millions of electrical impulses are firing across billions of synaptic pathways, and you don't even think about it.

But you should, and you should praise

God for the gift of life and the multitude of His blessings you enjoy. And you should do one more all-important thing: discover your life's purpose and dedicate yourself to fulfilling it. It has been said the two most important days in a person's life are the day they're born and the day they discover why they were born. Think about it!

### PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, thank You for how You have created me. Help me live the "WHY" YOU CREATED ME. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

The above devotion was written/compiled from multiple sources by Tim Hetzner, Ambassador for

## Fostering Life...We Are Called to Care

For a little over a year, We Are Called to Care has been laboring to bring a new home for emergency foster Care into being. At this point, the home has been refurbished and brought up to code for a group home, volunteers and donors have provided basic furnishings, and the necessary paperwork for DCFS has been completed. They are ready to receive children! Here is the most recent prayer letter from We Are Called to Care. It contains a call to prayer and an opportunity to contribute that any of us anywhere in Illinois could help with.. Enjoy!

Hello! Can you believe it is May already? The month where spring is showing itself everywhere and our calendars are packed full. *Did*

### *you also know that May is Foster Care Awareness Month?*

To honor this month that is set aside to become more aware of the needs around us regarding foster youth, I have an invitation for you to **join us in prayer**. Selah Home is expected to take youth on JUNE FIRST, give or take a week. **THAT IS EXCITING!** We are taking the month of May to invite church leaders and God's people to come to Selah to cover the home in prayer. We have several church staff groups coming to hold their weekly meetings at Selah this month, and some life groups and bible study groups are coming too! We are overjoyed to know so many will be praying over Selah.

Would you share this with your church leadership, inviting them to contact me to see if this would work for them? Maybe you would

like to bring a group to come and pray through the home this month? **Hit reply and let's chat!**

As we close in on opening, we have a wish list of last minute items to fill the house! If you feel led, click and shop around. All items will be delivered right to the house.

### [Amazon Wish List](#)

As always, thank you for being here. We are in awe of how God has used His people to do this work. **To God be the glory, great things He has done!**

Until all kids have a family,

Shari

*Let's pray for the children who will find refuge in Selah home. May God grant help to those who nurture them there!*



# Youth Essay Contest Winners

Once again, our 5th-8th grade youth Essay Winners have spoken well in the cause of affirming Life! This year's first place winner is Elise Terracina, of Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Collinsville, Illinois. Elise wrote from her personal experience as the sister of a person challenged by disability. Her essay is entitled "A World of Difference" and you will be able to hear her read it at the Lutherans For Life of Illinois Summer Life Gathering.

Life Essay winners come from a variety of places in Illinois. I hope each of these congregations is proud of their young people and their life affirming witness. These young people

are formulating their thoughts on important Life issues and expressing those thoughts from a Biblical perspective in a world where we are continuously encouraged to place our emphasis on surface issues. This is counter-cultural and their leadership and serious thought is to be commended.

Others winners here in Illinois are:  
Second Place-Chloe Bilbruck-Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Collinsville

Honorable Mention:

Cooper Italiano-Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Collinsville

Raelei Buchanan-Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Collinsville

Josy Schuessler-Trinity-St. John's Lutheran School, Nashville

Angelino Iverson-Trinity Lutheran School, Lombard

May God bless each of these students and their schools and churches! Let's keep them in prayer as they live in a world full of mis-information and marketing gurus who view life with no thought of the Creator or what He might wish us to do with regard to Life Issues. May He guard their hearts and keep them faithful to His Word!

—LL

## Good News reported from AMA

Here in Illinois we have seen Physician Assisted Suicide come before our legislature this past year. Among those lobbying for this were some who promoted the idea that PAS is a lower cost healthcare alternative for those who are suffering a terminal illness than what is currently available. There have been unconfirmed reports that this line of thinking has come from administrators of major Illinois hospitals and insurance executives. Again we see the term "healthcare" misused in serious ways! The following quote came from the Patient Rights Action Fund and appeared in LifeNews.com. The good news is that the American Medical Association seems to have noticed the incongruity of calling it healthcare to bring about death...at

least in this case.

"At its annual meeting, the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates (HOD) overwhelmingly rejected an attempt to change AMA policy and in doing so re-affirmed its longstanding policy in opposition to assisted suicide. It also approved a Board of Trustees report which rejected attempts to change the longstanding and clear terminology "physician assisted suicide" in AMA policy.

Dating to 1994, the AMA Code of Medical Ethics states that "Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer, would be difficult or impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks." At its 2019 annual

meeting, the House of Delegates overwhelmingly voted to uphold the Code of Medical Ethics as written. **The 2025 Board of Trustees report states that "the profession of medicine should not support the legalization or practice of physician assisted suicide or see it as part of a physician's role."**

Pray for our state lawmakers, as they continue to be lobbied by those in favor of Physician Assisted Suicide. May they have clear vision and an understanding that choosing cheap over restorative or palliative is not health care. God grant them discernment when those calling for "choice" stand to benefit financially by one and only one choice and are likely to pressure and manipulate others to make that their choice.

## RLOM Maternity Home News



A sweet, sweet sound! The sound of a newborn baby's cry in Redeeming Life's E. Dundee Maternity Home is the SWEETEST sound! A little boy with chubby cheeks and dark hair was welcomed home by his

momma and our staff. Years in the making with hundreds of partners, tons of churches and groups, and our Gracious God's provision...join us in thanking God!

Come out to Good Shepherd in Elgin for a Shake, Rattle & Stroll family event Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. Visit [rlom.org/events](http://rlom.org/events) for details!

Will YOU help RLOM G.R.O.W. this year? (that's short for Gathering Resources and Opportunities for Women!) Anyone can host a G.R.O.W. event- at home, coffee shop, church, park...! Invite your people to join in for a quick presentation about our maternity home and how they can partner with us. That could be job opportunities, volunteer days, gifts, or events, or ideas we have yet to discover. Email [info@rlom.org](mailto:info@rlom.org) to host a G.R.O.W. event near you!

We praise You, O God, our Creator and Sustainer for the gift of LIFE! We thank You for the many brothers and sisters in Christ who partner with RLOM to support moms and babies and ask for Your blessing as we continue this life-affirming work. In Jesus we pray. Amen!



# Position Statement...Human Cloning

Lutherans For Life Position Statements are designed to clearly state the For Life viewpoint on various Life issues facing us today. You can read them all on their website: [LFL](http://LFL.org)  
• Updated February 28, 2025

## Human Cloning

WHEREAS, God is the Creator and Giver of life, and each human being is a unique creation of God; and  
WHEREAS, God has provided human beings with the gift of sexuality through which new human beings are to be procreated; and  
WHEREAS, The cloning of humans, by which is meant the production of a second human embryo for either reproduction or therapeutic purposes, which will be genetically

identical to a DNA donor, allows for the circumvention of the procreative process, and is an abuse of the gift of human knowledge in an attempt to usurp the authority of God; therefore be it  
RESOLVED, That Lutherans For Life condemns the cloning of humans. Should cloned humans be produced, however, they should be regarded by society and especially by the people of God as possessing full value and dignity as individuals created by God and redeemed by Him through Christ Jesus our Lord. Be it therefore also  
RESOLVED, That Lutherans For Life urges its members to become informed about the scientific

efforts regarding cloning human beings and to express concern that human cloning contravenes the design of God for procreation and should not be pursued.

(Lutherans For Life takes no official position on the cloning of or genetic engineering of plants and animals.)

**Father, God, you alone are the Author of Life and you have done an amazing thing in creating humankind as you chose to do! Please forgive us when our arrogance leads us to assume a place in the universe that only You can fill! You deserve all praise for we are fearfully and wonderfully made!**

## What's a Lay Person to Do?

Once in a conversation with District President Mohr, I commented that serving as District Life Coordinator was akin to playing a twisted game of Whack-A-Mole. Of course, the preeminent issue is always Abortion. But when you try to focus on that matter, another issue pops up in the news or in pending legislation — like Physician Assisted Suicide or Transgenderism. Or perhaps it is concern about Drug Abuse or Pornography or Homosexuality or Gambling or Homelessness or one of many other various Life Issues that deserve our attention. All of these matters have the potential to damage or destroy human bodies or eternal souls. So what is a Christian to do?



To make the situation even worse, our culture is heavily influenced by evil. The Devil is relentless in trying to frustrate Christians, coaxing them to give up their testimony for Christ in the face of fear and darkness. Frequently he whispers in our ear (and sometimes he shouts directly into our

face), "Mind your own business! Who do you think you are to judge the sins of others? The situation is hopeless — what can you do anyway? Let the clergy handle it — it's their job after all." So what should an ordinary believer do against such overwhelming forces of evil?

Thankfully Jesus gives us the answer. And the answer is so beautiful and eloquent in its simplicity. He instructs us to humbly love our God, and then to love our neighbor in genuine compassion. That's it! We please our heavenly Father through the expression of our love.

Martin Luther understood the anxiety that lay people carry when it comes to our own individual duty to God. He framed the solution in the context of Vocation. Whatever station we have in life, it is given to us by God himself. We are to accept our position in this world as a gift. And then we are to honor Him in everything we do and say. You may never know how the power of the Holy Spirit is manifest through the tiniest act of kindness or the gentlest word of encouragement. God has inten-

tionally placed us in our assigned vocations to touch specified people, be that family members and friends, casual acquaintances or even a passing stranger.

The Lord wants us to stand up for the convictions of our faith. Let the hope in your heart be evident to all. Be aware of the spiritual realm and know that human actions on earth can have eternal implications. Avoid sin, because that grieves the Holy Spirit and hinders our testimony of Christ.

It is important to pray. Our gracious heavenly Father cares for us and is concerned about our anxieties and desires. Even though He already knows our wants and needs before we speak them, He still wants us to look to Him in complete confidence and trust. He especially delights in our prayers for others. Remember to give thanks. Praise God for His infinite mercy, for His wondrous majesty and for His tender and loving nature. Thank Him for sending His Son and the perfect yet enormous sacrifice He made for us all. Be grateful for the glorious eternal home awaiting us. Rejoice in His glory!

By David Ward,  
CID Life Coordinator



## An Opportunity to Shine through service

In recent years, your Lutherans For Life of Illinois Board has seen a lot of changes! Some have retired. Others had illness call them away from service on the board. Pastoral calls have taken board members to other states. Those of us who remain are committed to serving the Lord of Life here in Illinois, but we

are few in number and would like to change that! There are three possible ways you can serve in this situation:

1.. Consider serving for a year on a nominating committee to nominate others for service on the state Board. If you would like to help in

this way, contact Rev. David Bortorff, President of LFL-IL, at: [dmbot7222@comcast.net](mailto:dmbot7222@comcast.net)

2. Pray about the possibility of serving on the Board.

3. **Pray that God will complete our State Board with the members of His choice!**

**LUTHERANS FOR LIFE OF ILLINOIS  
PRESENTS**

**A Summer Life Gathering,  
FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE**

**At Trinity Lutheran Church,  
1201 W. Jackson St., Auburn, Illinois 62615  
August 23, 2025, 9:00 AM—2:00 PM**

**Speakers and topics include:**

**David Curtin, Illinois Family Institute,  
Effective interactions with lawmakers**

**Kim Marxhausen, author Weary Joy: A Caregiver's Journey**

**John Tally, Pro-Life Lawyer, power of attorney for Healthcare**

**Illinois Youth Essay Winner, Elise Terracina**

**Elmi Patton, First Step Women's Center, Springfield**

**Julia Heinz, Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries Maternity Home**

**Jen Hall, We are Called to Care foster care ministry**

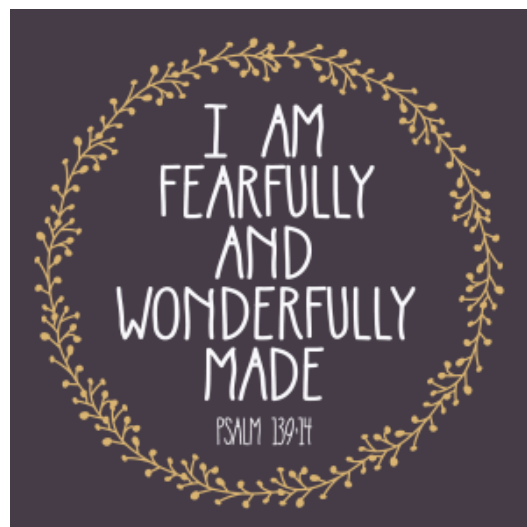
**Pastor Kevin Wendorf, St. John's Lutheran, Chatham,**

**End of Life Preparation**

**Jerry Curry, Director of the Curry Funeral Home, funeral planning**

**Prayer for Life**

**(Door Offering for Maternity Home, Pregnancy Center, and Foster Care Ministry)**





**Fearfully and Wonderfully Made  
A Summer Life Gathering  
Of Lutherans For Life of Illinois  
August 23, 2025  
Registration (\$20, includes lunch)**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (Team, Chapter, Church, Self) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church/Town \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

Translation Assistance Required?

ASL ☐

Spanish ☐

To help us with planning, please send in your registration form and payment (checks payable to Lutherans for Life of Illinois) by August 10, to:

Alice Steljes, 1011 Jefferson Street, Pawnee, IL 62558



## 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](mailto: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](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

## Let's Pray!

1. Uniquely created and positioned for such a time as this, our President is under the watchful eye of God. Pray that God would guide him in all he does that our country may be run with respect for human life and with regard for the needs of all her citizens.
2. Uniquely created and positioned for such a time as this, our Governor is under the watchful eye of God. Pray that God would guide him in all he does that our state may be run with respect for human life and regard for the needs of all Illinoisans.
3. We pray for each of our national lawmakers as each has been uniquely created and positioned to lead our nation at this time. May God grant them wisdom, respect for human life, and a desire to serve all the citizens of this country.
4. We pray for each of our Illinois state lawmakers as each of them has been uniquely created and positioned to lead our state at this time. May God grant them an honest respect for human life and discernment to lead in the best interest of all our state's citizens.



Lord, I have heard of your fame;  
I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord.  
Repeat them in our day,  
in our time make them known;  
in wrath remember mercy.

Habakuk 3:2-3

5. Each uniquely created person who has been placed in a pregnancy help center needs our prayers today. May God grant them strength, gentleness, faith and joy as they deal daily with difficult situations! May they be blessed in every earthly and spiritual way!
6. Each uniquely created person who has been touched by abortion needs our prayer today. For those who grieve the loss of their children, may God grant healing! For those who didn't dream of working in abortion centers when they grew up, but find themselves doing exactly that, may God make a way out,
7. help them find forgiveness and a life-affirming purpose for their lives. May Word of Hope and other post abortion healing ministries be blessed in their work.
7. Each uniquely created child who is in foster care needs our prayer. May God watch over them and provide His protection, grace, and knowledge of the Savior!
8. Each uniquely created person who has given up hope on life needs our prayers today. May God meet the needs of their hearts, May He bring people into their lives today who can speak words of Life into their situation.. May God grant them hope, a certain knowledge of His perfect Love for them, and a sense of purpose that goes beyond external circumstances, and gives them a reason to live.
9. We also pray today for each uniquely created and perfectly positioned living stone in the church! May each of us find joy in service to our Lord Jesus! May we all love one another with complete selflessness, as only God can enable us to do! And may we all be filled to overflowing with gratitude for the gift of Life!