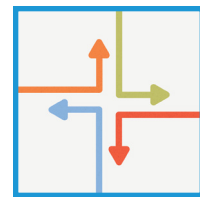


Directions ...

For LFL's Frontline
November-December
2025



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



This edition of Directions includes ...

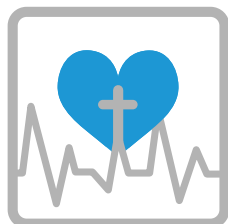
Donate 2025 | Lutherans For Life's
Year-End Giving Campaign

A Bible Study:
Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

A Bittersweet Moment! by Virginia Flo

Life Project:
Gifting Special Books to Special People

Staff Profile: Michelle Bauman



LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE

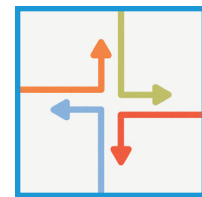
LIFEDATE  **LUTHERANS**
FOR LIFE

Fall 2025



lutheransforlife.org/resources/journal

Donate 2025 | Lutherans For Life's Year-End Giving Campaign



Dear Friends For Life,

Thank you for your steadfast commitment and generosity in upholding the sanctity of life from fertilization to forever. Your unwavering help in proclaiming the truth that all human life is created by God, redeemed by Jesus Christ, and called by the Holy Spirit is making a profound impact in our churches, communities, and country.

As a vital member of our LFL family, you understand the critical life issues we are facing today. Abortion remains a significant threat to women and families. Millions of individuals fall victim to human trafficking each year. And suicide rates among youth and the elderly continue to rise, highlighting the urgent need for the life-affirming work of Lutherans For Life.

As LFL approaches the end of the year, we want you to know that we are facing a financial challenge: Our donations and ministry gifts are down, and we need your help with upholding God's gift of life for all people!

This holiday season, we are launching our end-of-year fundraising campaign and encourage you to take an active part in our mission by helping raise vital funds to carry forward our important work. Every donation made during this appeal has a significant impact on the lives we touch, the hearts we reach, and the culture we aim to transform.

To help make a profound difference in the lives of many and support our end-of-year fundraising campaign, you can donate online at lutheransforlife.org/donate2025 or mail a check to the national office:


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

If you would like to reach out to Dave Probst, Director of Development, about giving opportunities, please contact him at dprobst@lutheransforlife.org or 812-603-7970.

WAYS TO GIVE



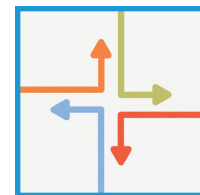
LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE

- **ONLINE** lutheransforlife.org/donate2025
- **LFL APP** Select "Give" on the bottom menu.
- **MAIL** Use provided envelope or send to:
1101 5th St., Nevada IA 50201-1816
- **QR CODE** 



FRONTLINE CALL

For All Lutherans For Life Frontline Volunteers!



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



Monday, January 12, 2026 • 7:00-8:00 p.m. CDT | 8:00-9:00 p.m. EDT
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85001324870> | Meeting ID 850 0132 4870 | Passcode 321251

Joyce Flanscha, the Life Team Leader at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Loveland, Colorado, will share information about two special book projects that they did. One project was to provide children's Bibles to a local pregnancy center. The other was to place copies of Melissa Ohden's book, *Abortion Survivors Speak Out*, in book-sharing boxes in their neighborhoods.

Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, PsyD, Director of LFL's Word of Hope, will give highlights of this ministry. Word of Hope is dedicated to offering Christ-centered support and spiritual care to individuals facing life issues such as abortion recovery, suicide, grief, end-of-life, and more. Through services like the hotline's crisis information and referral, direct spiritual care, and specialized programs like the Redeeming Grace Retreat, the Mindfulness Course, and HOPE for suicide awareness, intervention, and postvention training, this ministry provides healing, guidance, and hope, as reflected in the powerful personal testimonies from those impacted.

Michele Hartshorn, Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations, will present more information on LFL's new ministry, the Congregational House of Refuge program. This is a remarkable program where congregations commit to being a safe place for pregnant mothers. Supporting them and walking with them as they raise their baby—or offering help if they decide adoption is their best choice—is all done in love and compassion. Learn more about how your congregation can be the hands and hearts that help women in their time of need.





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

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

New Life Advocates

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

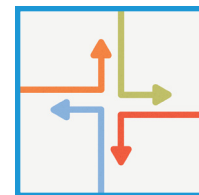
- Clara Schulz, Trinity Lutheran, Mallard, Iowa
- Sara Zambrano, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Harlingen, Texas

If you would like to know more about becoming a Life Advocate or starting a Life Team or Life Chapter, please contact Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations, at vflo@lutheransforlife.org. **The entire Volunteer Relations Team is here to help you!**



A Bible Study: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

by Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske



Our theme verse for Life Week 2026 is taken from Psalm 139:14, “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.” To fully understand the depth of these words, we have to read them in the context of the entire psalm, especially in light of the verses that precede them.

According to this psalm (inspired by the Holy Spirit), is there any place that God is not present or cannot reach? Which divine qualities is David writing about in verses 1-10?

These divine qualities could cause fear or bring comfort to a person. Why would God’s omnipresence (present everywhere) and omniscience (knows everything) cause someone to be afraid? Why would it bring someone else comfort? What causes the difference between these two reactions? In light of later verses, do you think David was distressed or comforted by God’s omnipresence and omniscience?

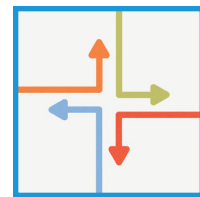
In verses 11-15, David begins to speak of God’s omnipotence (almighty power). What has God used His almighty power to do? Thinking back to Genesis chapters 1 and 2, how does the creation of human beings differ from that of the other creatures? What does this reveal about God’s character?

The contrast between light and dark is an image that is used frequently in Scripture. (See John 1:4-5.) What are the realities that God is trying to reveal to us by using this imagery? How can David confidently say that the “darkness is not dark” to God (vs. 12)? How do the Gospels help us understand this further?

In the beginning, God established that children would be brought forth through the physical union of husband and wife (Genesis 1:27-28, 2:24). Since that time, is God personally involved in the creation of each human being, or does it happen without His aid? Is any child not a gift of God? What imagery is David using to describe God’s involvement in the creation of each human being?



In general, are handmade items more or less valuable than mass-produced items? What does this teach us about the value of each human being?



Because of Adam and Eve's rebellion, every person is born with original sin. Does that affect each person the same or differently? How can this inform us about the value of those born with various diseases or maladies? Are they also "fearfully and wonderfully made"?

Science continues to reveal how wonderful the human body really is. Can you think of examples of what makes the human body a wonder? Other animals and parts of creation have some amazing traits, too. Why would we say that we humans are "fearfully and wonderfully made," over and above the rest of creation?

Saying that the creation of each person is wonderful (vs. 14) is one thing, but what about that word, "fearfully"? How might we understand our creation as "fearful"?

God tells us in verse 16 that not only is He responsible for each life's beginning, but He is also the One who determines the end of our earthly life. What implications does this have for us, especially regarding issues like suicide or assisted suicide?

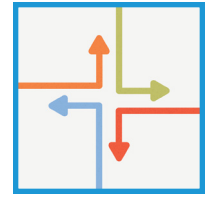
What is the "book" that David references in verse 16? (See Revelation 3:5 and 13:8 for help.) How and when is your name recorded in this book? What comfort does this bring us?

How does David respond to all of this (vs. 17)? What should our response be to this knowledge?



A Bittersweet Moment!

by Virginia Flo, Volunteer Relations Director



“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him.”

Lamentations 3:22-24

It is indeed bittersweet as I have announced my retirement from Lutherans For Life. It has been a twelve-year journey, and it is now time to see what the Lord has in mind for the next phase of my life. Thirteen years ago, I had taken an early retirement from my corporate position, thinking that was it for me. It was very short-lived, as I knew very quickly, I was bored silly. I may have been done working in the corporate world, but I surely wasn't done serving the Lord.



You see, for all my adult life I have actually had two careers. One was in business management in the corporate arena. The other was serving in the church, first as a church choir director for 50 years at three different churches, as well as serving in other capacities such as on the Board of Directors for an organization called The Academy for Christian Stewardship. Of course, at the churches where I served, I have held many positions in stewardship, outreach/evangelism, worship, and the board of Christian education at my church with a Lutheran school. Somewhere in the midst of all this, I managed to serve as the President of a local Life Chapter in the Twin Cities area called Life Guardians. So, when a position opened at LFL, it seemed like a perfect fit.



As I look back at these past twelve years with LFL, I have moved into various positions as needed. I started as the Regional Director of Minnesota. Soon the position of Conference Director was added to that role. And, most recently in the past few years, I have served as Director of Volunteer Relations, something that is very near and dear to my heart. I have been able to work with you in the Frontlines as you serve the Lord in your various churches and communities. What a joy that has been, as I have had a front row seat in watching our Life Advocates, Life Teams, Life Chapters, and State Federations develop and grow in their roles to equip our fellow Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

Part of me wants to continue serving at LFL in whatever role is needed. The staunchest part of me wants to stay home and write another novel or devotion book. I wrote my first book to honor the many years my parents took in foster children. It's not an over-the-top accounting; rather, it's a simple fictional story of a young boy finding himself in foster care. He resembles a number of children that lived with us over the years. Even after my father had a serious tractor accident, causing us to sell the farm, my parents found a way to still open their home to these children in need. I think living with many different children over those years, from when I was about four through high school, helped to mold my belief in caring for the children and having a passion to support life at all stages.



I do look forward to drawing on my love to create things around the kitchen and work in the yard. That probably comes from growing up in the country working the fields with my dad and canning the produce with my mother. I'm not working the fields anymore, as the farmers' market is right down the road. But I am still working in the kitchen to make some favorite dishes and can many of my favorite products like tomatoes, pickles, beets, corn, and whatever else comes to mind as I walk the rows at the farmers' markets. Ordering a bushel of this and a bushel of that is not an uncommon event for me.



I am very fortunate, although I live in the suburb just south of the Twin Cities, to have many critters that visit my bird and squirrel feeders in my backyard. It's mesmerizing to just sit and watch as they appear throughout the day. Those creatures range from birds, squirrels, rabbits, deer, ducks, turkeys, red fox, raccoons and whatever else shows up. I will continue to feed whatever shows up, even those I may chase away as some can be a nuisance. I guess I take the good with the bad since I am providing the bait.

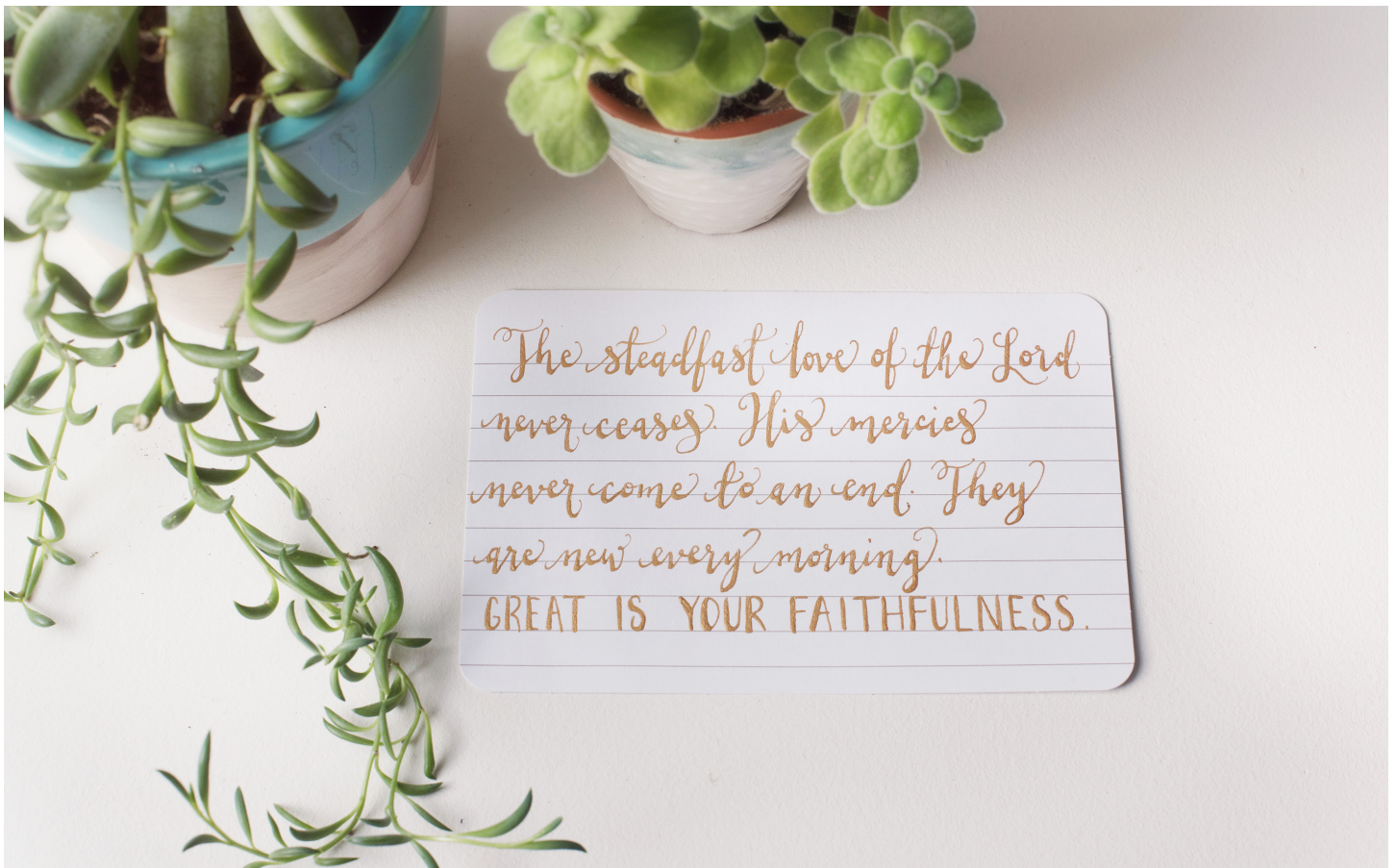


Above all else, I love to fish. I sold my cabin about three years ago that I had for about 35 years. With my work at LFL, it became difficult to get there regularly, as those hobbies need to be maintained. It seemed like the right time to step aside from that passion. Yet it will always be with me, as the serenity that comes from sitting in a boat or pontoon on a calm day makes me feel extremely close to God and His creation. I often fished with a dear friend, relative, and mentor, Renata, who came to live with me after her husband died. As a 96-year-old retired Lutheran schoolteacher, she too has that passion for fishing, as you can see from the photo on the lake as she watches her bobber closely. I have probably cleaned thousands of fish over the years, as that is an art form, and creating things is top of my list. Maybe I'll find another place to fish after retirement and bring back some of that solitude I loved for those many years.

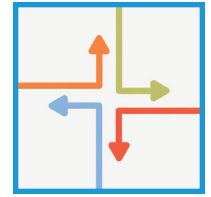
Working at Lutherans For Life has been a true joy in my life. Some might say, "How can you work on life and death issues everyday?" I would have to counter that thought by sharing the Good News we have in knowing that God loves life. There is no death in God's plan. He created us, redeemed us, and through the waters of Baptism He calls us to an eternal relationship. There is no death in that plan. We share the message of LIFE. That is a joyful message that I plan to continue to share. May God continue to bless the ministry of Lutherans For Life.

I will be working a short time into the new year. The days are going by quickly, and there are so many things I still want to do for my Volunteer Relations Team and the Frontlines. I know God will lead the way and provide the means to get things done. I may be popping up here and there, as our For Life network is everywhere.

I look forward to living in the love of the Lord that never ceases, and His mercies never end as they are **new every morning**. Therefore, I have faith and hope in the Lord in my new journey. Thank you, everyone, for your faithfulness in serving the Lord of Life. You are a blessing! (See *Lamentations 3:22-24*.)



Life Project: Gifting Special Books to Special People



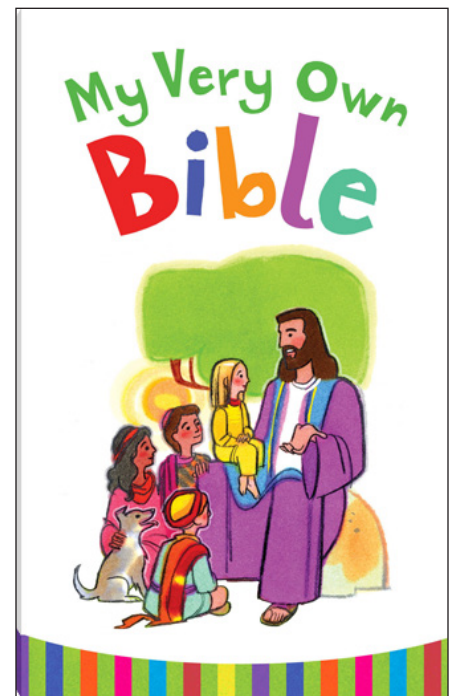
This project is shared by the Life Team at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Loveland, Colorado. Thank you to Joyce Flanscha, the Life Team Leader, for providing this information.

For those of us who love to read, books are a very special gift indeed. The Life Team at Mount Olive Lutheran Church has two separate projects where books are the cherished gift.

Children's Bibles Given to the Local Pregnancy Resource Center

The first project is an ongoing one that provides copies of *My Very Own Bible* to their local Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC). This project had a very interesting beginning! When Lutherans For Life had a closeout sale on their *GOD'S WORD for Life* Bibles, they purchased about 100 of them. They distributed them as needed to area pregnancy centers and periodically checked in with them to see if they wanted more. It was during one of the follow up visits that their local center stated that they could use some Bible story books for children because those initiated questions from their clients and gave the center's staff the opportunity to share the Gospel and answer questions. The Life Team researched many different children's Bibles to find one that met their criteria on how creation, the flood, miracles, the passion story, and Jesus' resurrection were handled. *My Very Own Bible* was their choice.

They purchase the Bibles from Christian Book Distributors. These are listed at a retail price of \$6.99, but the Life Team has always purchased them on sale for considerably less. The Bibles are purchased with Life Team funds which are a line item in their congregation's budget. They deliver the Bibles to the PRC personally and check in with them about once a year to see if they need more. The center staff are the ones who connect with the clients and distribute the Bibles as they minister to them.

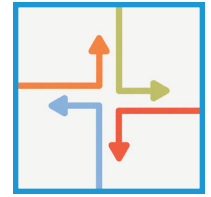


Here are some additional things the Volunteer Relations Team came up with that you might consider if starting this project in your own congregation:

1. Ask your church leaders and the PRC if you could put your church's contact information in the front of the Bible—either a printed or hand-written label. If clients know where this gift came from, they may want to thank your group. They may even show up at church in response to this loving gift. This can be a wonderful evangelistic tool to reach young families.
2. Since the PRC continues gifting these Bibles to families, they must see a positive impact. You might ask your center to share specific stories, using aliases if requested, of how your gift has opened the door to declaring the Gospel to a parent and how it has changed lives. This would certainly be an encouragement to your own congregation!



3. As many of us often do with backpacks, prayer shawls, and other items we send into our neighborhoods, consider blessing/consecrating the Bibles during a church service before they are given to the center.



Above all, pray that these Bibles will lead the counseling staff, the parents, and the children who receive them to come to know the Lord of Life who created them, redeemed them, and now calls them by name to be His own.

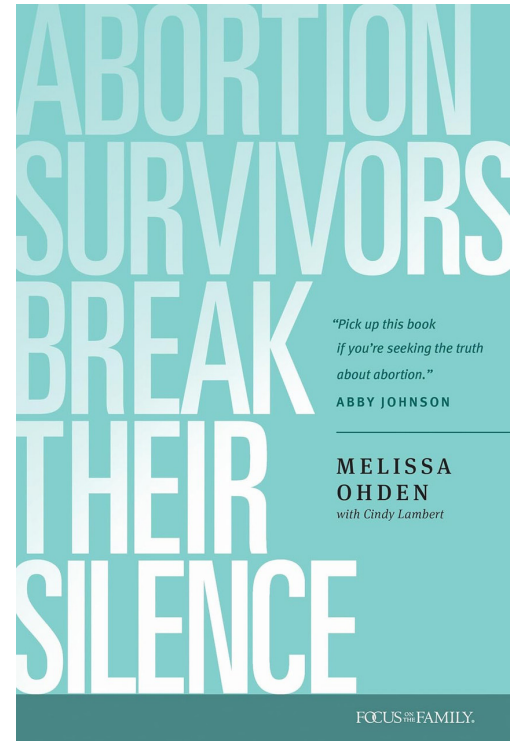
***Abortion Survivors Break Their Silence*, a Book by Melissa Ohden, Given to Neighborhood Sharing Libraries**

The second project was a one-time event that may also bear much fruit, but only God knows the answer to that! Copies of the book *Abortion Survivors Break Their Silence* written by Melissa Ohden were purchased by the Life Team and placed in the little “book swapping boxes” found on poles in their own neighborhoods. The evangelism board paid for the books. They intentionally did not put the church’s name in the books as they did not want to deter someone from taking it home. Note: If concerned about rain damage, you might wrap the books in clear plastic before putting them in the box.

As with many of the great ideas and projects that we have done in the Lord’s name, we don’t always see the results. We don’t always know if a heart is touched or a life is changed. But our Lord knows. We are called to continue to plant the seed just as Jesus tells us to do in the Parable of the Seed Growing.

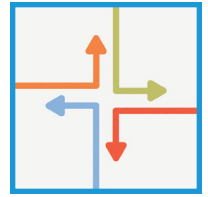
“And he said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear’” (Mark 4:26-28).

We don’t have to fully understand *how* children’s Bibles change families. We don’t have to know *how* words of joy and encouragement from an abortion survivor may impact others. We just trust that because God promised it would be so, our labor and our prayers will produce *abundant, full fruit*—even when we know not how.



Our Lutheran Students Speak Out For Life!

by the National Essay Contest Committee



For years, the Council of Federation Presidents and Lutherans For Life have co-sponsored an annual essay contest for students in grades 6-8 and 9-12. Any student who attends a Lutheran church or Lutheran school is eligible to submit an essay. The essay contest theme this year was “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made” and was based on the Bible verse, “**For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well**” (Psalm 139:13-14).

This year the eight participating State Federations—Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota—plus Minnesota, Texas, and some states with no federation, received *hundreds* of essays—perhaps a new record! The first-place essays in each grade division in each state were submitted to the national contest. We ended up with eleven 6-8 grade first-place winners and nine 9-12 grade first-place winners. Of these twenty winners, we chose one first place for the 6-8 grade and 9-12 grade divisions and one second place for the same categories.

Information on the four national winners may be found here:
lutheransforlife.org/article/2025-lfl-national-essay-contest-winners.



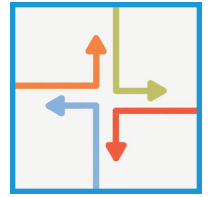
From hundreds of essays to twenty to *four*. We so appreciated the incredible voices for life expressed in the state-winning essays that did not place at the national level that we wanted to honor their achievement by sharing with you their own words For Life from a selection of the state-winning essays.

“People with disabilities also reflect the truth that every life is fearfully and wonderfully made. Disabilities do not lessen a person’s worth. Instead, they highlight the beauty of God’s diverse creation, reminding us that every person has a purpose in His plan” (Jamie S., Kansas).

“Seeing the things that God has done with our family [through adoption] is incredible. Though we were each knit together in different mothers’ wombs, adoption brought us together as a united family, bound by [their] loving decision to choose life” (Asher B., Nebraska).



“This Bible verse shows that babies are alive in the womb and aborting them is killing them. It doesn’t make sense that people aren’t allowed to take drugs while pregnant because it could hurt the baby [but are] able to kill a baby, inflicting pain while doing so. This should not be allowed” (Rory A., Missouri).



“Many people look at the diagnosis of depression as a dead end with no hope. Because of our faith that every one of us was made with a purpose, we can know with sure confidence that nobody is a failure and that there is hope in our future” (Olivia B., South Dakota).

“[M]en have the highest suicide rates. Whether it’s ‘not manly’ or ‘embarrassing,’ a lot of men don’t like or want to discuss their mental health and feelings. [But] they are fearfully and wonderfully made. We must equip these men with the tools they need to lead a God-fearing, Gospel-motivated life, serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ” (William T., Missouri).

“The word ‘euthanasia’ comes from the Greek roots *eu* and *thanatos* meaning ‘good death.’ The practice of euthanasia, however, is not good. With or without consent, euthanasia is murder. We do not have the authority to kill people. Only God has such authority, because He is the Creator of all life. With God by our side, we need not fear death. He will not forsake us” (Christiana K., Michigan).

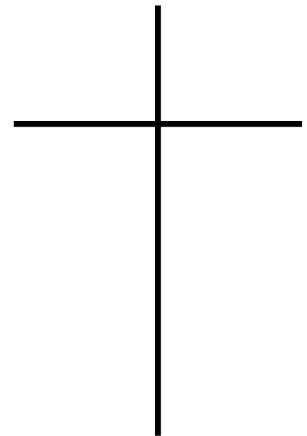
As we read these essays, we also see the truths that our young people see: God created us in His image, “fearfully and wonderfully” so. He cares for everyone, no matter what our age or situation in life. A relationship with *Jesus* is the source of our strength in all of our life issues, no matter how insurmountable they may seem.

What a blessing to have so many young voices For Life in our Lutheran schools and churches. What a blessing that they shared their voices with us! We pray that the Lord will help them continue to be voices for life as they grow in their faith and in their commitment to the Lord of Life, Jesus.

2026 Essay Contest | That They May Have Life

We look forward to receiving many great essays from our students in the 2026 contest! The rules may be found at the link below.

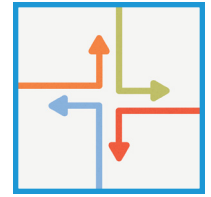
THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE



lutheransforlife.org/2026-lutherans-for-life-essay-contest



Involving Younger Members



After looking through the submitted 2024 Annual Activity Reports, we noticed several requests for information about ways to involve the younger members of a congregation. This can seem like an overwhelming task, and you may not know where to start. All ages can play a vital role in your church's life ministry.

The best place to start is by working on building relationships with children, teens, and young adults. An important aspect of working with young people is being present. Take interest in their life. Learn and know what the younger members are facing. The simplest interaction can have a huge impact on the life of a child or teen. Building relationships with youths and their parents will help open opportunities to involve younger members in the life arena. Keep them in your prayers and look for other opportunities to plug them into the group/event.

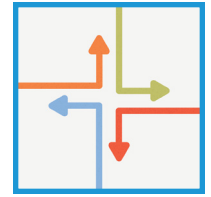
Younger members are still growing in confidence, so it is wise to be sensitive to how they may be feeling. Encourage them and find areas where they will thrive. These experiences will help shape them as they grow and mature. Take time to get to know them and their talents. The younger members may need to be approached and asked directly if they would be willing to join your group or volunteer for a certain event. Let them know why they would be a good fit for this role and clearly state what is expected. If they say no, don't be discouraged. Without overwhelming them, touch base later and see if things have changed. Don't pressure them or make them feel guilty for not participating. Meet them where they are.

Communication is always key when working with volunteers. It is also a big part of any relationship. You may need to start with the basics and share what your group is about. Communicate clearly how they would be involved. Listen to their concerns and thoughts. Get to know the parents, Sunday School teachers, and youth leader in your church. This will help you be more successful in gaining participation of younger members.

Instead of thinking about big projects, it might be best to start with smaller projects where young people of all ages can assist. It won't feel as overwhelming, and they may only have time for small projects here and there. This will engage them, and they'll start to feel comfortable as part of the group, which could lead them to work on those bigger projects and become more involved.



For many retired members, meeting during the day is not a problem and is usually preferred. Most children, teens, and young adults are in school or working during the day. Keep this in mind when planning meetings and events. If you want involvement from younger members, you may need to change meetings times and activities or add additional events.



Talk to Sunday School teachers and youth leaders about opportunities to use a Sunday School meeting or youth group meeting for a life-affirming project or event. If your church has a school, you could partner with teachers to help plan ways youth can be involved. Some groups have visited the school during chapel and shared what their Life Team or Life Chapter does. Age-appropriate materials were supplied. Some groups asked the youth to help with filling bags that were donated to a home for mothers. Another group had the Sunday School children assist in counting the money collected during the baby bottle fundraiser.

One challenge you will face when working with the younger crowd is turnover. You may have to fill a role every so many years, and some years, you may not have as many youths involved. Sometimes college students don't return to the congregation after graduation. Young adults get married and start families, which leads to a restriction in the time they are able to help. This doesn't mean that they can't help, but it is important to keep this in mind.

Many life-affirming resources are available for children, teens, and young adults. Find ones appropriate for your members and make them available. You can also share where these resources can be found. Work with parents to provide the resources they need and want. Help the parents be Gospel-motivated voices For Life so they are equipped to assist their children to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

Here are some ideas of ways to involve the younger generations:

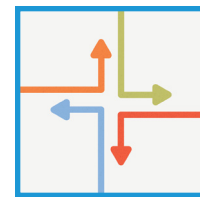
- Check out Y4Life (Y4Life.org) and YA For Life (YAForLife.org) resources and materials
- Sunday School kids can help count money for baby bottle fundraiser
- Organize a baptismal Remembrance Day or activity
- Have children decorate cards to send to homebound members and those in the hospital
- Speak to students in chapel, if your church has a school
- Senior youth can help with a project or offer to speak to students about LFL during a youth group meeting
- Distribute life-affirming books and materials to youth
- Organize a For Life poster contest or essay contest
- Work with other groups in your church to find ways to combine resources for a life-affirming event or activity
- Look for opportunities within your church and group where younger members can be engaged

Pray for these young members in your congregation. Listen to them. They may have wonderful ideas for your group. While change can be hard for us Lutherans, it might be necessary to provide the younger members in the congregation with the opportunity to become more involved in the life ministry of your church.

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6).



2025 LFL National Conference



The 2025 Lutherans For Life National Conference reflected its Psalm 139:14 theme, “**I Am Fearfully and Wonderfully Made,**” in the remarkable testimonies of Christian witnesses to life through its vast array of keynote speakers, breakout presenters, and award winners.

- **Jim Daly**, President of Focus on the Family, shared the joy of being a Gospel-motivated voice For Life through the Focus on the Family ministry.
- **Jack Phillips** of Masterpiece Cakeshop and **Judge Ruth Neely** of Pinedale, Wyoming, spoke of being witnesses to the Gospel, spoken in honesty and love, and trusting in the Lord even when persecution comes.
- **Joy Pullmann**, of The Federalist, highlighted the value of being a woman of the Lord and the obstacles faced in today’s culture of death.

**Fearfully
and
Wonderfully
Made**



Through the breakout sessions, we heard inspiring stories of embryo adoption and life issues involved in IVF, learned how to support those with dementia, and learned how to practically prepare for the end of life.

We were encouraged to invite our congregations to become safe places for women facing unplanned pregnancies by becoming a Congregational House of Refuge.

We learned to walk with those who have suffered from a loved one committing suicide and to have courageous conversations about gender with the young people in our lives.

Six award winners were recognized throughout the conference:

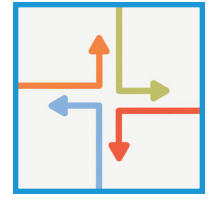
- **Dominus Vitae Awards** for Justice Tom Parker, retired Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court (present), and Gilbert Meilaender, American Bioethicist and Theologian
- **Teaching 4 Life Awards** for Melissa Hasamear and Julia Habrecht (both present)
- **2025 LFL National Essay Contest** for Casey Steiner, Grade 9-12 (present), and Alexa Ulanoski, Grade 6-8

Pike’s Peak and Garden of the Gods were some of the favorite sites visited by the conference guests during the free afternoons, along with the Air Force Academy and the Focus on the Family Welcome Center. A handful of attendees even visited Planned Parenthood, joining the 40 Days for Life kick-off at the Colorado Springs location. Their prayers and presence encouraged the local life-affirming folks on the sidewalks and provided a loving Gospel witness to those who arrived at the clinic for services.

Overall, 207 Lutherans attended the conference, including 21 children and 12 teens. The Great Wolf Lodge and Colorado Springs were appreciated as a conference venue and location respectively, both providing ample activities indoors and out for conference attendees. Dozens of participants engaged in



the friendly fundraising competition that helped to raise over \$22,000 for Lutherans For Life, blowing past the initial goal of \$10,000. As an incentive, LFL Executive Director Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske agreed to sample Rocky Mountain oysters if the goal was reached. LCMS Rocky Mountain District President Rev. James B. Maxwell and LFL Director of Development Dave Probst joined Dr. Fenske to conclude the conference with this culinary adventure, as the goal was amply surpassed.



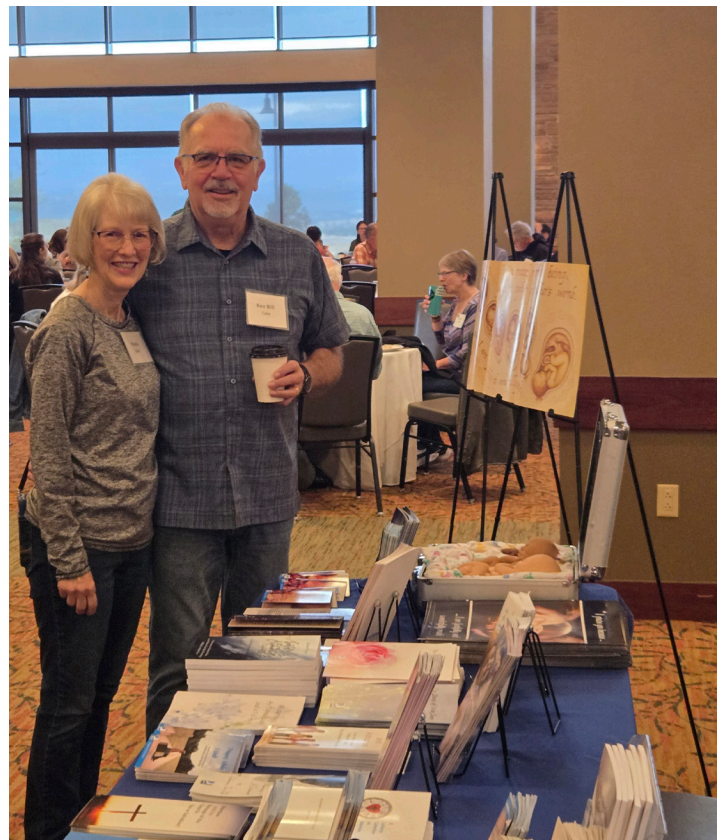
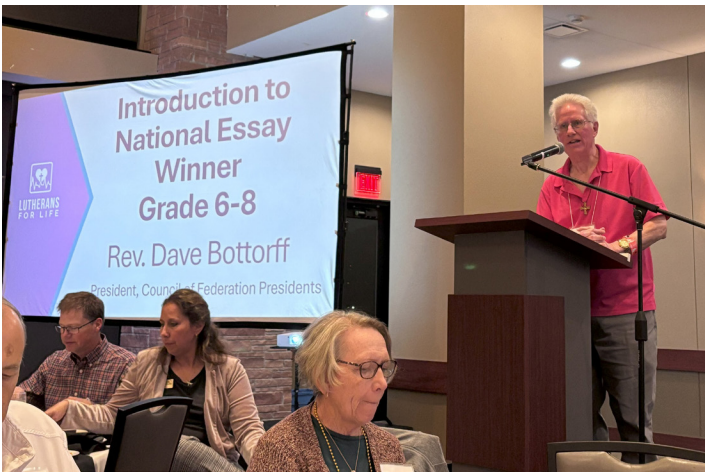
We are grateful for the exhibitors who joined us at the conference, sharing their respective ministries. These included:

- **Concordia Theological Seminary | Fort Wayne**
- **Institute of Lutheran Theology**
- **LCMS Life Ministries**
- **Lightwell**
- **Lutheran Classical College**
- **Lutheran Family Service**
- **Lutherans For Life**
- **Word of Hope**
- **Y4Life**

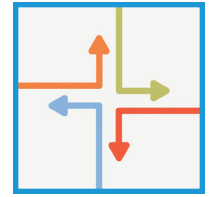
And we most heartily thank all the conference participants who chose to spend three days immersed in life issues and fellowship, equipping themselves to be stewards of the Gospel message of Life.







The Council of Federation Presidents: Serving Their State's Frontlines



There exists an association of dedicated For-Life Lutherans who are always striving to share their Gospel-motivated voices For Life with those around them. They are known as the **Council of Federation Presidents or COFP**. Who are they and what do they do? How are they affiliated with Lutherans For Life?

State Federations

First a definition: A **State Federation** is an organized, legal entity within a state that has Life Advocates, Life Teams, and/or chartered Life Chapters. The State Federation is chartered by Lutherans For Life, Inc., as a 501(c)3 and is directly affiliated with them.

Each State Federation is overseen by a board of directors who are elected by the federation members at their annual meeting. The officers of the State Federation are drawn from this group and consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and sometimes other board members as needed. The goal of the federation is to be a Gospel-motivated voice For Life within their state and to encourage and assist their congregations to do likewise. Several of our federations have been proclaiming the Gospel of Life since the 1980s!



The State Federation presidents have a key role in the function of their federation and the For Life ministry within their state. They know the laws and the issues that are currently impacting their state and thus have the responsibility and the opportunity to share this information with their members. There are written guidelines and a job description to help them, but primary requirements, as for all of us in life ministry, are to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life and to have the desire to encourage people across their state to be the same. They run the meetings of their own federations and are responsible for getting reports of their activities to the Lutherans For Life Board of Directors on a quarterly basis. Most oversee the national essay contest in their state, and some do publish a state newsletter to inform their members about life issues and the opportunities to be voices For Life. All the presidents continually look for ways to promote life-affirming activities in their states.

We currently have nine State Federations (and presidents) actively seeking to encourage and support life ministries in their states: **Illinois** (Rev. Dave Bottorff), **Iowa** (Daniel Lindemeier), **Kansas** (Rev. Caleb Stoeber), **Michigan** (Rev. Paul Clark), **Missouri** (Mike Albers), **Montana** (Berniece Stulc), **Nebraska** (Bob Saeger), **North Dakota** (Rev. Dennis Norby), and **South Dakota** (Jill Johnsen). We thank God for these dedicated men and women who work so diligently to spread the word of Life. These State Federation presidents make up the Council of Federation Presidents (COFP) as is implied by the name! The current officers for the COFP are Mike Albers, President; Rev. Dennis Norby, Vice-President; and Daniel Lindemeier, Secretary.



COFP President's Role

The COFP president oversees the activities of the Council of Federation Presidents and plans their meetings. They are responsible for submitting the State Federations' required activity reports to the LFL Board of Directors and representing them at BOD meetings. They communicate regularly with the other federation presidents to keep information and needs current.

Mike Albers, the president of the Missouri Federation, was recently elected as the COFP president for 2026. Mike and his wife, Diane (also a past COFP president—it must be a family commitment to life!), have been voices For Life for many years.

COFP Presidents Share Their Experiences

We would like to introduce two of the COFP's most recent past presidents, Rev. David Bottorff and Rev. Paul Clark.

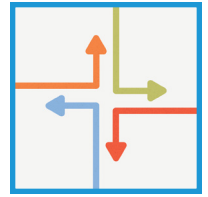
Pastor Dave Bottorff retired from his role as pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Darien, Illinois, in 2018. He was the COFP President during 2025 and still serves as the Illinois Federation president. His primary reason for becoming the federation president was to help the small, isolated life ministries in Illinois find a voice together, have a place to highlight their life-affirming work, and be recognized as life ministries. He is honored to play a part in organizing the Illinois Federation's annual state-wide life events that focus on a variety of life issues and raise funds for highlighted life ministries. Pastor Dave values the work of the Illinois Federation and the work of the COFP, but because of his wife Marilyn's health issues, he resigned from the position of COFP president at the end of 2025. You can be sure his voice For Life is still going strong in Illinois!

Pastor Paul Clark, senior pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fowler, Michigan, is the president of the Michigan Federation and served as the president of the COFP from 2021-2024. He genuinely enjoyed the responsibility of planning for and leading the COFP meetings and opening them with a devotion and prayer. Between meetings, he enjoyed staying in touch with the presidents and passing on any information that he thought would be helpful. He also had regular communication with Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations, as she often had helpful ideas to bring back to the COFP. He regularly prayed for each federation president and believed it was a wonderful privilege to serve in this way. He continues to enjoy being very active in leading Michigan's Federation in the ongoing need to educate congregations, support pro-life projects and agencies, and plan events that highlight the need for God's people to make a stand For Life.



Serving on the LFL National Essay Committee

South Dakota's Federation president, Jill Johnsen, serves the Lord of Life in another important ministry that we want to highlight. She has been the president of the South Dakota Federation for eleven years, but for the last several years has had the pleasure of serving on the **LFL National Essay Committee**. The National Essay Contest is held annually for Lutheran students in grades 6-12. Please check this out! lutheransforlife.org/2026-lutherans-for-life-essay-contest



Jill shares these words with us: "I would encourage other federation presidents to become a part of this committee because the essays that today's young people are writing are amazing! So many essays are written from the heart and display the deep passion our youth have For Life on a variety of topics. Many have first-person experience with circumstances that show them a world that not everyone sees, and they write from their own perspective." She is also grateful for her experiences as a federation president. It has allowed her to meet many wonderful people in South Dakota and around the country.



Their upcoming project, to be held in Chamberlain, South Dakota, on April 18, 2026, is a suicide awareness program, featuring LFL's Word of Hope Director, Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, PsyD.

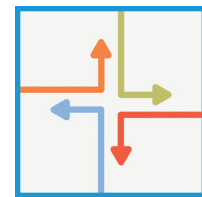
A Valued Part of the Frontlines

Our State Federations, their presidents, their boards, and their members are a valued part of LFL's Frontline. They are faithfully proclaiming the sanctity of life to those around them at every opportunity. Detailed information may be found at this link: lutheransforlife.org/frontlines/state-federation. We would like to share one last thought with all of you. Rev. Paul Clark, referenced in our article, shared his personal mission statement with us, and we would like to share it with you.

"I firmly believe that the sanctity of human life is the most important issue of our day and that by means of informing and educating the public, as well as by applying Christian love and compassion to those directly affected by the trauma of abortion, physician-assisted suicide, and euthanasia, the pro-life position will prevail, and our nation will again uphold the dignity and sanctity of human life."



Congregational House of Refuge



Shine your light internally and externally, sharing how your congregation is a safe place for pregnant mothers. Your support will give them hope to raise their baby. Walk with them should they decide adoption is their choice. During this special time, you and your church are there as their child develops and they prepare for this next stage in life.

The Congregational House of Refuge program assists the congregation to equip their members and neighbors to prevent abortions, provide healing for those affected by previous abortions, and protect the unborn and the vulnerable in their community.

The Congregational House of Refuge represents a Gospel-motivated witness and service For Life. A congregation commits publicly and lovingly to support its members and neighbors experiencing an unplanned pregnancy.

Process to Become a Congregational House of Refuge

- The pastor reviews the program carefully, recommending it to church leaders.
- The congregational leaders review and approve the program.
- The leaders share the program with the congregation for approval.
- The pastor reads a commitment statement in worship twice a year.
- The congregation gets involved through mentoring, praying, and providing a representative to handle the program details.
- The congregation is listed on a locator map of other Lutheran congregations engaged in this program.

BECOME A CONGREGATIONAL HOUSE OF REFUGE

How to Use the Congregational House of Refuge Statement

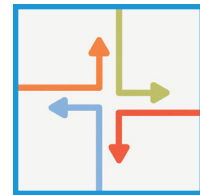
- **Publicly declare safety and support for unplanned pregnancies.** Congregational House of Refuge congregations have a public reading of the statement at least twice a year. This gives voice to the statement embodying the commitment.
- **Incorporate God's Holy Word throughout the program.**
- **Plan an appropriate schedule for reading the statement at least twice a year.** This could be on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, or Mother's Day or Father's Day, to name a few. Schedule what works best for the church.
- **Communicate and post the statement for the congregation to read.** Post the statement in service folders, newsletters, at the Welcome Center, on the church website, or in social media posts.

Registering as a Congregational House of Refuge

The pastor should review the program resources to include the Program Guide, the Congregational House of Refuge Statement, and the Congregational House of Refuge Commissioning and Installation



Litany available on the LFL website at Congregational House of Refuge. Once the materials have been reviewed, the pastor registers on the website as a Congregational House of Refuge. Volunteer Relations will reach out with the next steps. For more information, please contact Volunteer Relations.



Develop a Congregational House of Refuge Response Plan

Once your congregation publicly designates itself as a Congregational House of Refuge, develop a Response Plan unique to your congregation. This means you have committed your community to surround and support those experiencing unplanned pregnancies. Your Gospel-motivated voice For Life is embodying God's truth and Christ's love to receive every human life as a blessing – no matter what size, skills, or circumstances.

- **Spiritual care: The Lord Jesus Christ is the focus.** Anticipate attending to their spiritual care. Invite them to worship, pray for and with one another, and offer Bibles, prayer books, or devotional books.
- **Where to begin?** Prepare for the hearts and lives the Lord our God is going to entrust to your care. Maintain some pregnancy-related supplies like maternity clothes, diapers and wipes, infant clothing, bottles, and formula.
- **Partner with your local Pregnancy Resource Center.** Collaborate with the Pregnancy Resource Center to identify aid agencies, food programs, and other resources they may offer to clients.
- **Determine other areas of additional support, such as shelter, transportation, and relationships.** Partner with your local Pregnancy Resource Center, collaborate with an area maternity home, or recommend a safe house if needed. Establish a team of volunteers available to support transportation needs such as doctor's appointments, employment opportunities, or errands. Develop a personal relationship, be available to help, and invite them to worship or Bible study.

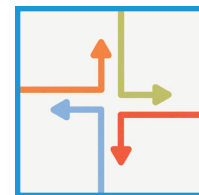
Determine Volunteer Roles

- **Representative** – The representative is the main point of contact within your church.
- **Mentors** – Identify women and men in the church who can mentor a woman or man experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. Mentors walk alongside and demonstrate the love of Christ.
- **Prayer Partners** – This role may be filled by individuals or a prayer team praying for the women and men being served through this program.

Volunteer Relations is in the process of developing training materials to equip the volunteers to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.



Staff Profile: Michelle Bauman



In southern Indiana, the roads aren't always laid out in a grid. They curve and bend, wending their way through wooded hills and flowering valleys. Vastly different from the grid system in the heartland of the Midwest, Indiana roads, especially the older ones, tend to meander. More than once, they've taken me in surprising directions and introduced me to beautiful places I've never been. Indiana roads. In many ways, they could serve as a metaphor for my life.

I was born in Waterloo, Iowa—at the same hospital and in the same hospital room my father was born in years before. Anyone with a scrap of sense would assume I was destined to be an Iowa girl. After all, my parents certainly had deep Iowa roots. They had both grown up in Cedar Falls, both graduated from Cedar Falls High School, and both attended the local university (UNI) where they met each other, fell in love, and got married at College Hill, an LCMS church and campus ministry.

And for a time, Iowa was our home. There was a short hiccup—a side trip of sorts—that took us out to Loveland, Colorado, for a year, but we returned to Cedar Falls before I was two with a new little brother in tow. We made a home. My dad worked for John Deere (Only green tractors for us!) and my mom stayed home and raised three children—another brother arrived a couple years after our return. Though we moved to a bigger house, we remained tied to our church and our family and to the Iowa corn.

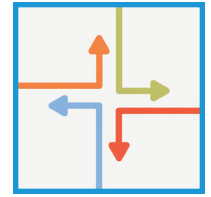
At ten, it all changed. With the encouragement of our congregation, my dad switched lanes and directions. We moved to Seward, Nebraska, so he could attend Concordia College and become a Director of Christian Education. Just over four years later, we moved to Greeley, Colorado, for his internship and eventual call. And that was just the beginning.



In contrast to most children, my childhood and young adult years had more breadth than depth. I lived in five states and sixteen homes before I was 26. All that moving drew me closer to my parents and brothers, and eventually to my husband and sons, because we had to depend on each other. But it also made me fearless when it came to travel, new cultures, and new experiences. At 19, I volunteered with Orphan Grain Train and worked in St. Petersburg, Russia, for three weeks. At 20, I taught for six weeks in Tisovec, Slovakia, at the oldest Lutheran High School in the world. That same summer, I backpacked on a shoe-string budget in Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic with professors and friends.



I don't know what it is to grow up in one neighborhood, but I do know what it is to gaze out my bedroom window at the majesty of the mountains, and I know what it is to feel the freedom of the plains in western Nebraska. I can tell you what it's like to live in a migrant community and a small town, in a city and in the Athens of the Prairie.



Sometimes, I wonder what it would have been like to grow up in one place like my husband did or as our sons have. There is something solid about living in one place; there is something special about roots that run deep. At the very least, there is the knowledge of where one comes from.

But I don't know what it's like to live in one place, and "Where are you from?" is one of the most difficult questions I'll ever answer. However, I can say with certainty that no matter where God sends you, He also provides. And He provides for life.

And because He gives gifts that uphold life, He gives us all we need. Home, for me, will always be where my husband is and where the Word and Sacrament are shared in purity and truth. Home will always be tied to His gifts of family and friends: our children and parents, our siblings and friends, the youth and coworkers I am blessed to serve.


Just like the roads in southern Indiana, the road I've traveled has taken me in surprising directions and introduced me to beautiful places. And one of those places has been LFL. I had no idea this was a road God was preparing when I became a teacher. But as I look back on more than 20 years of teaching, I can see how God was working not only in the present but also to prepare me for this future. I have enjoyed serving as the Y4Life Director for the last six years, and I look forward to serving for many more!



Brief Bio:

Michelle served 21 years as a Lutheran educator in Indiana before joining the Lutherans For Life team in June 2019. As Y4Life Director, Michelle speaks at schools, churches, and youth gatherings across the nation, helping youth of all ages learn about life issues and how to address them from a Gospel-motivated perspective. She also supports the building and maintaining of Y4Life Teams on high school and college campuses across the nation. When not presenting, writing, or hosting events for Y4Life, Michelle loves traveling, hiking, sampling gluten-free pastries, and spending quality time with her husband, sons, and daughter-in-love. She lives in Columbus, Indiana, with her husband, Rev. Doug Bauman, and attends St. Paul Lutheran Church, Clifty, where he serves as pastor.





I praise you, for I am
**Fearfully
and
Wonderfully
Made.**

lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2026



Bulletin Inserts • Bible Study • Children's Message • Worship Service • Sermons

“Fearfully and Wonderfully Made” is Lutherans For Life’s theme for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, which is set for January 18, 2026. Your congregation can observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on that date or at any time during the year.

Our Life Sunday 2026 theme is based on Psalm 139:13-14: **“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”**

This Word of God reveals the care and intention that God takes in the creation of each and every human being. It teaches us that from the very first moments of our conception, God’s hands are upon us, carefully and lovingly crafting each one of us through our fathers and mothers. And while each person is created by God with their own unique characteristics and personalities, the care that God takes in creating each person shows us that every person, from the moment of fertilization on, is precious to God regardless of their age, size, condition, or ability.

Use our Life Sunday resources to help unpack this theme and what it means for the For Life movement, both nationally and in your congregation and community.

Our prayer is that these materials will provide valuable information and encouragement to you, your community, and the life-affirming work you are engaged in.



Life Week 2026

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made



Lutherans For Life



Sunday, January 18, 2026

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made ... As God's Own *with Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske*

Focus: An overview of the created-redeemed-called Gospel motivation and practical suggestions for sharing the sanctity of life. *Join live on Zoom.*

Monday, January 19, 2026

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made ... With a God-Given Identity *with Rev. Darrell Debowey*

Focus: Exploring the creation vs. evolution debate from a Lutheran perspective and how it affects our identities as children of God in our vocations. *Prerecorded for flexible use.*

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made ... Despite the Prenatal Diagnosis *with Rev. Daniel Freeman*

Focus: Addressing prenatal testing and diagnoses, this presentation will discuss how to uphold the lives of those who have received an adverse prenatal diagnosis. *Join live on Zoom.*

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made ... For a Forever Family *with Rev. Derek & Gretchen Roberts*

Focus: The importance of both physical family and spiritual family for foster and adoptive children, as well as the issues foster and adoptive children may face as they become members of a new family. *Prerecorded for flexible use.*

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made ... For Life *with Dr. Adam Francisco*

Focus: Affirming the value of life from the moment of fertilization and using apologetics to defend and uphold life from the beginning. *Watch on Facebook Live.*

Friday, January 23, 2026

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made ... Even When It Hurts *with Deaconess Chrissie Gillet*

Focus: Supporting those who have experienced earthly suffering and pointing them to the hope and forgiveness found in Christ Jesus. *Join live on Zoom.*

Saturday, January 24, 2026

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made ... To Serve and Be Served *with Rev. Matthew Harrison*

Focus: Leveraging one's skills and talents to serve those in the community and reminding them of the love of Christ and His desire to serve the Church through the Sacraments. *Watch on Facebook Live.*

All live presentations will be at 8:00 PM ET, with the exception of Saturday, January 24, which will be at 9:00 AM ET.

Zoom: Meeting ID: 838 6206 3962

Passcode: 823940

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83862063962>

Questions?

lifeweek2026@lutheransforlife.org





Life Quotes 2025

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

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

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

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



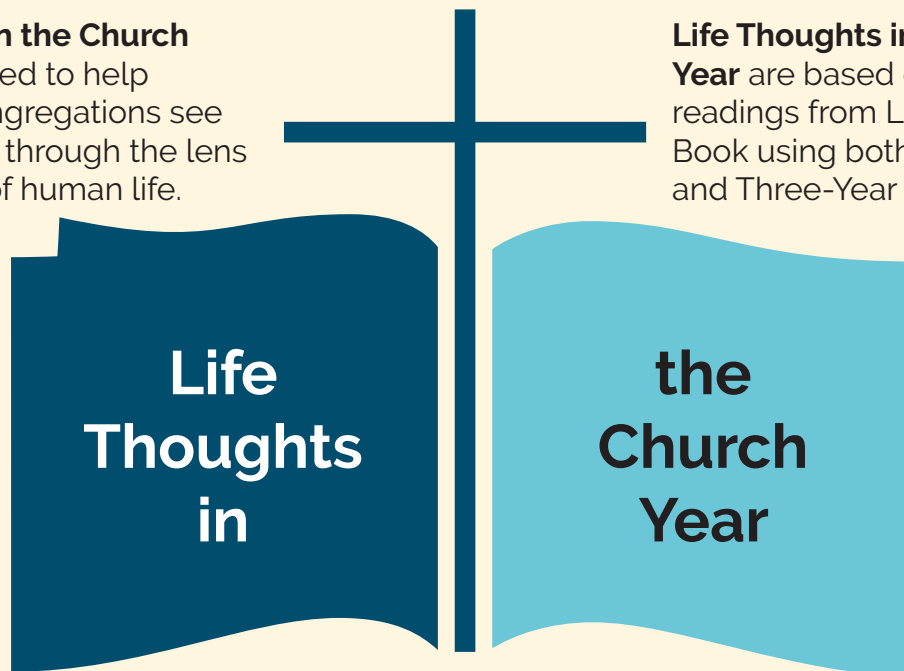
Free Downloadable Resources!

Life Thoughts in the Church

Year are designed to help pastors and congregations see the church year through the lens of the sanctity of human life.

Life Thoughts in the Church

Year are based on the appointed readings from Lutheran Service Book using both the One-Year and Three-Year Lectionaries.



lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-thoughts





Want to be a voice For Life?

Lutherans For Life can help YOU!

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.



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

lutheransforlife.org/volunteer-relations/

...from fertilization to forever



YA FOR LIFE CONNECTION KITS

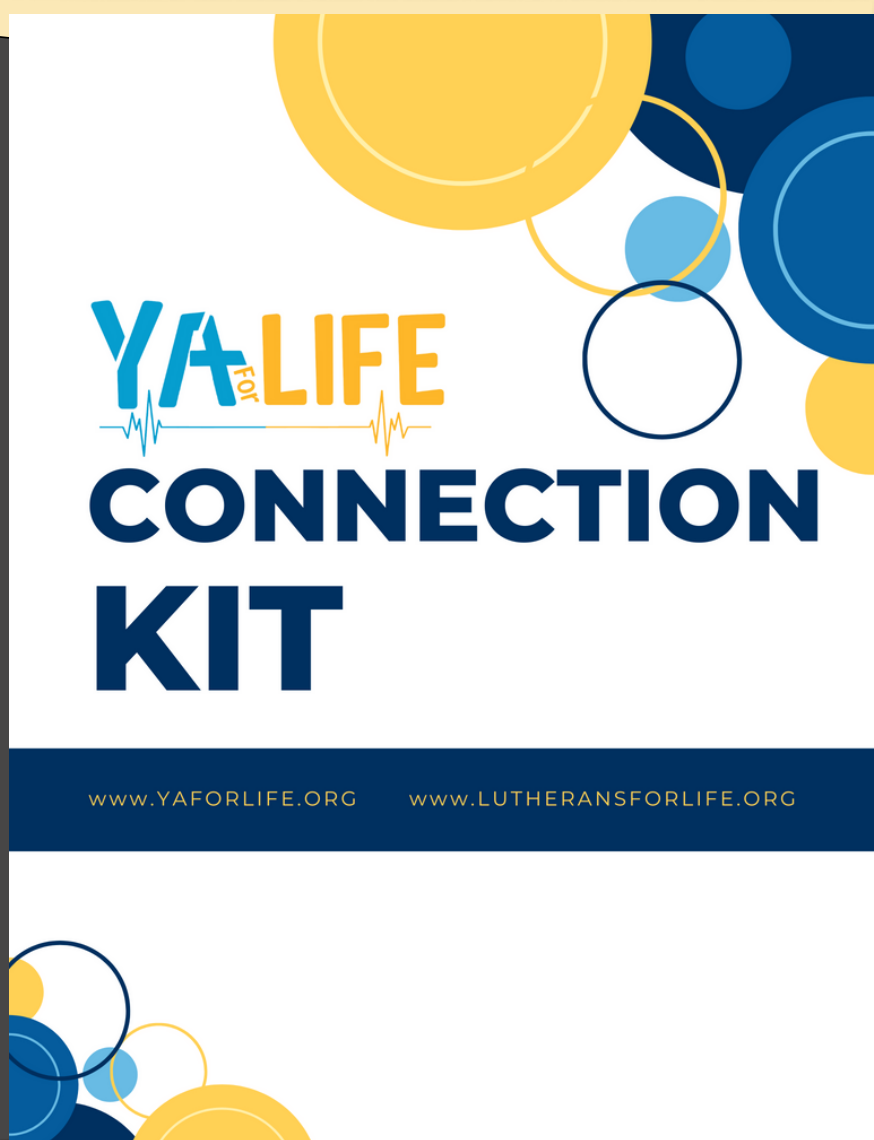
Each YA For Life Connection Kit contains resources that are designed to be used by young adults and Life Teams as they address life issues in their congregations and communities. Kits include practical information on how to plan for and set up a Connection Event; ideas for addressing life issues through worship, education, service, and celebration; and practical tips for including families and youth. Learn more and get your kit today at YAForLife.org.

On sale now for

\$50

Order your kit at
lutheransforlife.myshopify.com

Questions? Email
michelle@y4life.org



www.yaforlife.org



Mindfulness in Christ

Tuesdays starting at 7:00 P.M. Central Time,
January 6 - March 3.

Wednesdays starting at 1:00 P.M. Central Time,
January 7 - March 4.

Why Mindfulness in Christ?

Unlike the worldly view of mindfulness, this course emphasizes being actively present with the Lord to make wise decisions based on Christ-centered values. It aims to improve self-control in managing emotions, thinking patterns, interpersonal interactions, and distress tolerance.



Email us at info@word-of-hope.org



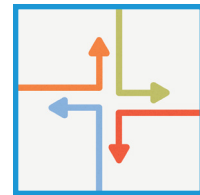
WORD
OF
HOPE

Join **Word of Hope** for an online nine-week class this winter! In this Christ-centered course adapted from dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT), you will learn skills that will help you develop a non-judgmental awareness of your thoughts and emotions.

A Tuesday evening class and a Wednesday afternoon class will be available, beginning in early January. There are only eight places available in each, so sign up soon by either emailing info@word-of-hope.org or calling the hotline at 888-217-8679.



LAMBs – Mercy Blankets



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

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

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

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

LAMBs – Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets

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

Your Name/Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Your Congregation: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Mother's & Father's Names: _____

Baby's Gender: Boy ____ Girl ____

Mother's Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Please send completed forms to: Belén Fry
Miami Valley Life Chapter
1505 Tipperary Court
Middletown, OH 45042-3038



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



Life Advocates Life Teams Life Chapters State Federations

VOLUNTEER RELATIONS is a Lutherans For Life team dedicated to serving the Frontlines, including Life Advocates, Life Teams, Life Chapters, State Federations, pastors, and congregations. They assist them in starting and maintaining a strong, healthy, and vibrant life ministry within their congregations and communities. Our team is here to share ideas, to mentor, and to walk alongside you as a life ministry consultant and partner.

Virginia J. Flo

Director of Volunteer Relations
651.333.0337
vflo@lutheransforlife.org

Michele Hartshorn

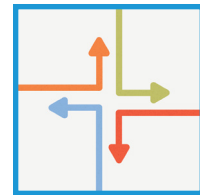
Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations
612.816.6194
mhartshorn@lutheransforlife.org

Amanda Nicks

Administrative Specialist of Volunteer Relations
231.622.2506
anicks@lutheransforlife.org



Lutherans For Life Online



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

www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife

www.facebook.com/groups/lflfrontlines

www.facebook.com/WordOfHopeHealingHearts

x.com/ForLifers • [instagram.com/lfly4life](https://www.instagram.com/lfly4life) • www.tiktok.com/@lfly4life

www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife



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

facebook

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

LIFEDATE

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

LIFE NEWS



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Available in App Stores







INTERESTED IN STARTING A LIFE TEAM AT YOUR CHURCH?

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

Here are the simple steps:

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

Tool 1 – Why and How to Start a Life Team This course will give you an overview of the Life Team training process. free <input type="button" value="Enroll"/>	Tool 2 – Life Team Leader Training This course will equip you to guide your Life Team in being Gospel-motivated voices For Life. \$25 <input type="button" value="Enroll"/>	Tool 3 – Life Team Member Training This course will equip you to participate with your Life Team in being Gospel-motivated voices For Life. free <input type="button" value="Enroll"/>	Tool 4 – Resources Tool 4 contains resources that supplement Tool 2 & Tool 3. free <input type="button" value="Enroll"/>
 LIFE TEAM Introduction and Roadmap	 LIFE TEAM Leader Training	 LIFE TEAM Member Training	 LIFE TEAM Resources

Register at:

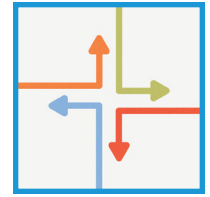
volunteersacademy.lutheransforlife.org

Questions? Contact Volunteer Relations:

lutheransforlife.org/volunteer-relations/



The Basics of Lutherans For Life



Our Mission: Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life

Our Vision: Every Lutheran congregation upholding the God-given value of human life and influencing society to do the same

Structure and Relationships

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

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

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

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

Membership Information

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

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

Membership Classifications

Annual Membership

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

Sponsor Membership

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

The Remittance Program of LFL

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

Annual Memberships:

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

Sponsor Memberships:

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



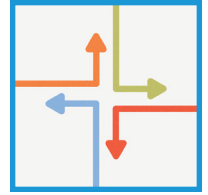
National Lutherans For Life Staff

Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske – Executive Director
Rev. Scott Licht – CFO/COO
Lowell J. Highby – Director of Communications
Michelle Bauman – Director of Y4Life
Cori Meier – Y4Life Assistant
Diana Ladislav – Y4Life Media Resource Assistant
Virginia Flo – Director of Volunteer Relations
Michele Hartshorn – Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations
Amanda Nicks – Administrative Specialist of Volunteer Relations
Dave Probst – Director of Development
Jerilyn Richard – Donor Relations Director
Jan Nessa – Administrative Assistant
Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, PsyD – Director of Word of Hope
Deaconess Janet Nicol – Phone Counselor
Lorelei Humphrey – Word of Hope Assistant
Erika Peterson – Events Coordinator
Katie Friedrich – Gift Entry Specialist
Julie Kyrola – Data Assistant

National LFL Board of Directors

Diane Albers, President – St. Louis, Missouri
Rev. Byrene K. Haney, Vice President – Fort Dodge, Iowa
Dr. Roni Grad, Secretary – Tucson, Arizona
Alice Steljes, Treasurer – Pawnee, Illinois
Mike Albers, State Representative – St. Louis, Missouri
Kimberly Berry – Benton Harbor, Michigan
Rev. Dr. Dennis Di Mauro – Herndon, Virginia
Col. John Eidsmoe – Pike Road, Alabama
Dr. Adam S. Francisco – Wheaton, Illinois

Kyle McMillian – Sacramento, California
Deaconess Pamela Nielsen – Ballwin, Missouri
Rev. Dennis Norby, State Representative – Valley City, North Dakota
Rev. Caleb Stoever, State Representative – Hepler, Kansas
John Talley – Newark, Illinois
Diana Vaughn – Ponca City, Oklahoma



State Federation Presidents

Rev. David Bottorff, Illinois – Bourbonnais
Daniel Lindemeier, Iowa – Ames
Rev. Caleb Stoever, Kansas – Hepler
Rev. Paul Clark, Michigan – Fowler
Mike Albers, Missouri – St. Louis
Berniece Stulc, Montana – Belgrade
Bob Saeger, Nebraska – Waco
Rev. Dennis Norby, North Dakota – Valley City
Jill Johnsen, South Dakota – Wessington

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

info@lutheransforlife.org
lutheransforlife.org
888.364.LIFE (5433) or 515.382.2077

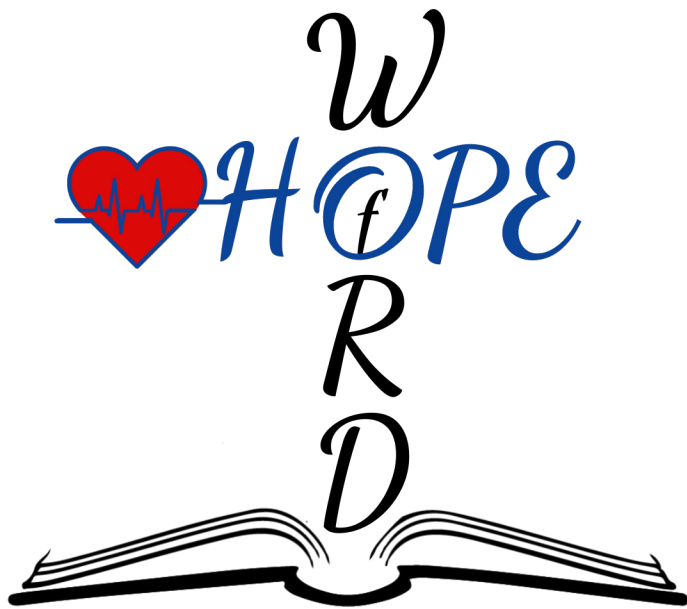
LFL Business Hours:
Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. CT.
Hours subject to staff availability.

Since 1973: 65,464,760 abortions in America

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

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®, Copyright© 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.





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

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

Word of Hope is confidential and
caring.

Word of Hope is a ministry of
Lutherans For **Life**.

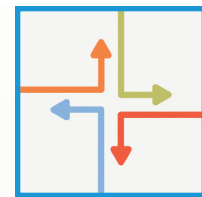
I'm **4Life** ... Now what?



Become a **Y4Life** Messenger • y4life.org



LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE



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

lutheransforlife.org/resources/store

- 2026 Life Sunday and Life Week Resources
- YA For Life Connection Kit
- Lil' Lutherans 4 Life – The Lord's Prayer
- The Soul Wound of Abortion
- Real Love Real Life (Y4Life Edition)
- C.A.L.V.A.R.Y - A Life-Affirming Approach
- Church and State: Ten For Life Reflections
- A 4Life View of IVF
- The Reality of Words
- A Creed For Life
- Life-Affirming Encouragement for Single Parents

