



LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE

Affirming Life In Illinois

Remembering the LFL National Conference

This national LFL conference had the very best speakers of the six I have attended!

My favorite speaker was my last breakout session speaker Marlene Strege. She had the very first snow-flake baby with Dr. James Dobson and many others' help. Her personal testimony was amazing! I read her husband John Strege's inspiring book called *A Snow-flake Named Hannah* that tells their uplifting story!

Our national LFL conference started out with uplifting keynote speaker Jim Daley, Focus on the Family CEO for the past 15 years. Focus's headquarters is only a few miles away from the Great Bear Lodge in Colorado Springs. In the Q&A we learned that Focus is operating in many other countries. Thursday's keynote speaker was Jack Phillips' Masterpiece Cakes' owner in Colorado Springs who went through 12 years of court battles. He was sued by a homosexual couple for not put-

ting stuff about them being homosexual on the top of their cake. He lost 3-2 at the state supreme court; but it was overturned by the Supreme Court 7-2 because of the extreme hostility the Colorado Supreme Court showed in their printed verdict toward him and his faith in Christ. Thursday night Wyoming municipal Judge Ruth Neely, an LCMS member, shared how her state supreme court wanted her to apologize publicly for her faith preventing her from performing a homosexual marriage that was part of her new duties. When she got their printed judgement publicly released, the press had a field day. But the court also felt the wrath of very conservative voters in Wyoming. They voted 3-2 against her; but they also voted that she could keep her municipal judge's job. However, she could no longer perform weddings, unless she did all homosexual weddings. Friday's last keynote speaker was Joy Pullman, the very conservative magazine editor of the

Federalist magazine which LCMS member Molly Hemingway heads and speaks on Fox News about women's issues. Joy has written bestselling *Classic Books for Young Children* and *300 Classic Books for Ages 9 to Adult*. It was refreshing to hear a woman homeschooling 6 children with a full-time journalism job at home talk about the important role of Christian men being the spiritual leaders in their family.

We had our afternoons free to explore the beauty of the area. I saw the Awesome Garden of the Gods Park: a Journey through Time, Pike's Peak and the Airforce Academy.

Seeing these sights and hearing the For Life testimony of people who risked their livelihood to give a witness to their faith in God motivated me to want to continue to "serve the Lord with gladness" (Psalm 100:2) through LFL ministries!

Pastor Dave Bottorff,
LFL of IL President

Memories that bring a Harvest of Thanksgiving

For the Israelites, the memory that was passed from generation to generation and was guaranteed to cause the heart to burst forth with songs of praise was the Exodus. The parting of the Red Sea in particular shows up in many psalms of praise.

For me, it tends to be God's work in smaller places that overwhelms me with praise, particularly the works he does in the human heart. When the heart is flooded with a thousand fear-driven objections to protecting Life, He can

stop the flood and allow love to pass through safely and calmly. Praise God!

God is still making memories of His mighty works so that we might praise Him. Fall is a wonderful time for those of us who love Life to make some memories with God!

October is Respect Life Month. Many memories are made with 40 Days for Life at this time as we pray for Life together. A couple less-known observances of the month are listed in the Save the Date, Illinois table above. Maybe one of these

will help you make some praiseworthy memories.

November is National Adoption Awareness Month and those of us involved in adoption can cite the miracles He has done on that front.

All of this brings us to Thanksgiving and then to Advent and Jesus' own journey from conception to the manger, and ultimately to the cross and resurrection Sunday, where He did the greatest wonder of all and bought us eternal Life! This quarter, join me in remembering and giving thanks!

Lutherans For Life of Illinois Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 3

Fall 2025

Save the date, Illinois

- 9/24-11/2: 40 Days For Life Prayer vigils, various locations
- 10/9: National Pro-Life Cupcake Day
- 10/21: Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity, anywhere
- 11/13-16 Redeeming Grace Retreat for post abortion healing, St. Charles, IA
- 11/23 National Adoption Day

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Lutherans For Life of Illinois Board News

You might wonder what in the world the Board of Lutherans For Life of Illinois does. It is a fair question. One of the main tasks of the board is to oversee finances for LFL in Illinois. You see, when you donate to LFL, a portion of your donation is sent back to your home state, to fund Life ministry right where you are!

Among other things, your LFL donations here in the state of Illinois have funded some remodeling required to allow a Pregnancy Help Center to work from an office at St. John's Lutheran Church in Champaign. They are located right next to the U of I campus and will be able to help students choose Life. In our state, University students are currently

targeted for the abortion pill through campus dispensaries. Among other projects LFL-IL has supported financially are the Redeeming Life Outreach Maternity Home in East Dundee, and the establishment of an assistance fund for Illinois Lutheran families wishing to adopt. We are grateful to you, the supporters of LFL who allow us to help the helpers! And we are grateful for Board Treasurer, Alice Steljes, who carries out the giving decisions and keeps our finances in order.

Another duty of our board is to sponsor the annual youth essay contest.. We are very grateful for current board member and retired Lutheran school teacher, Cathy Benning, who with her husband Russ, oversees this task for us.

We are grateful for the leadership of our board President, Rev. David Bortorff. And we are especially grateful for our new Vice President, Rev. Robert Bruer. They regularly share the ministry of LFL with other pastors in our state, as well as interfacing with LFL so we can remain current.

We are grateful to have a full complement of Board members now, with the help of David Ward, Esther Becker and myself, Laura Laesch, Secretary. We are privileged to pray for all Lutheran Churches in our state, as well. Thank you to those of you who have prayed with us over the course of the past year that our Board would be filled. God has answered!

Keep praying! We need God's guidance to serve you well!

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

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

RLOM Maternity Home News

Thankful for our RLOM Lutheran Maternity Home!

As leaves turn and as Thanksgiving approaches, we thank God for everyone who worked tirelessly to open Redeeming Life's E. Dundee, IL maternity home in 2024! Thanks to you, women in IL have a home, help, and hope in crisis pregnancies. As founder Rev. Ed DeWitt says- "Women tell us, they don't need an abortion; they do need help!" RLOM's year-long program offers stability and time for women to finish training or education, get a job, and save money. Much more, women attend counseling and receive spiritual care, learning about the redeeming love of our Savior Jesus. THIS is God's church in action, walking alongside

His precious children, helping them, and pointing them toward Jesus.



With your support, 8 women have called our IL house their home so far. Two have stayed through birth, both delivering healthy baby boys. One baby has been baptized and one mom was confirmed into the faith!

Several women reconciled with family and moved back home. All 8 women and the 6 babies who have been born healthy and safe, plus the 2 babies not yet born, remain in our prayers!

We ask for your support and your connections to others to build this ministry. Visit rlom.org to learn more or donate. Email us at info@rlom.org to book a visit or plan an event or fundraiser; we welcome groups to tour the home or to host our speakers in your church or group. **Together, as the Body of Christ, we can share His love in a home, help, and hope for pregnant women in crisis!**

By Julia Heinz,
Director of Mission
Advancement, RLOM



Remembering the Lutherans For Life of Illinois Summer Life Gathering



August 23rd was a day to remember! Life-loving Lutherans from around the state gathered at Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn to learn, encourage one another, and explore a variety of ways to serve the Lord of Life. Have you ever considered our public servants, whether elected, appointed, or hired, as a mission field? It was obvious by listening to Mr. David Curtin of the Illinois Family Institute, that he does see them that way, with empathy and genuine concern for *their* welfare as well as for the good of the country as a whole. Mr. Curtin challenged us to pray together weekly for our government officials, "from the President of the United States to the local dog catcher." He also reminded us that we are in the middle of a spiritual war and that our enemy is not flesh and blood. Besides praying for our government officials, Mr. Curtin also encouraged filing witness slips and attending committee meetings when Life Issues come before our lawmakers. He stated that those meetings are open to the public, but that very few citizens actually attend, so your presence makes a difference when you do. Mr. Curtin suggested developing relationships with officials, stating that stories from the heart are more effective than statistics in terms of influence. "Bring kind-

ness and you will influence legislators," he said. His final suggestion was to support pro-life candidates by volunteering at election time, helping or even bringing cookies to the campaign headquarters!

Our next presenter was author Kim Marxhausen. She is a former kindergarten teacher and currently a college professor in the Psychology department. From that wealth of background, she could help us see how God wonderfully and fearfully made our minds to work from the perspective of a Caregiver's Journey. She gave us an understandable explanation of the gift of "surge capacity", that feature of our minds that kicks into high gear in moments of crisis and helps us to deal with the crisis by narrowing our focus to the problem at hand and simultaneously recalling past experiences that can be of help in dealing with it. She also explained the concept of "emotional labor", the ability to remain calm and address the underlying concern, rather than reacting to a surface emotion, when interacting with those for whom we care. Labor is a good word...it is work to set aside our own surface emotions to focus on the real underlying emotions of others and can leave us tired! In addressing this, Dr. Marxhausen's advice for care givers is good advice for all of us:

1. Feed your Faith.

2. Find your Fellowship
She explained that there is actually a physical aspect of nurturing your faith... as you memorize Scripture, study the Word, or listen to the message on Sunday morning, you strengthen the neural pathways that bring Scripture back to mind when something happens in life where it can uplift, encourage, or motivate you. Included in finding our fellowship is remembering that Galatians 6:2 tells us to bear one another's burdens and that we shouldn't be afraid to ask for help when we need it.

Other speakers gave us practical information we can use to prepare for the other end of Life. John Talley, retired lawyer helped us understand Powers of Attorney for Healthcare and how we can use it as Life-affirming Christians. Pastor Wendorf of St. John's Lutheran in Chatham shared information about records we could use to help our families in funeral planning when we have entered our heavenly rest and Jerry Curry of the Curry Funeral Home helped us to understand some of the limitations of prepaid arrangements for funerals.

We were treated to updates from the Redeeming Life Maternity Home in East Dundee and the work of First Step Women's Center in Springfield, as well as the reading of our 2025 Illinois Youth Essay Winner, Elise Terracina.

—LL

Voting with Your Pocketbook...Remember when...

Do you remember who first introduced you to Lutherans For Life and their ministry of equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices for Life?

Today, I am thankful for my husband's cousin Cheryl, who took me along to an LFL Chapter meeting many, many years ago in Bloomington. The topic that night was voting with your pocketbook. The information presented had to do with collagen being collected from tiny pre-born babies who had been taken by abortion. That collagen was then sold to cosmetic companies for use in skin and hair care products.



Today I am thankful that, according to Human Life International, no US companies are using fetal cells to develop cosmetics. Where collagen is used, it now comes from other sources. In the same report, however, they point out that with online shopping becoming more and more prevalent, people are not always taking note of where their cosmetics originate. The article states that most products containing human fetal cells or fetal cell lines originate in Europe. Among the companies that have researched and developed such products

is one called "Neocutis", based in Switzerland. The products to be aware of include: Lumiere, Bioserum, Prevedem, Journee, Biogel, and Bio-Restorative skin cream.

Another grisly practice mentioned in the article includes the use of baby body parts in beauty salons of Eastern Europe. There have been some horrific reports of what Vladimir Smirnov, Director of Moscow's Institute of Experimental Cardiology has called, "...a huge, corrupt and dangerous trade in dubious therapies. The authorities have never licensed any medical specialist to administer injections of stem cells. These methods are totally experimental and illegal."

The article explains how this happens: "In 2005, reporters revealed that aborted children were being sold in Ukraine for use in Russian beauty salons..."

"The poorer cities of Ukraine found themselves at the epicenter of a growing practice involving the "harvesting" of aborted children from young women and girls.

"Research found that obstetricians in Donetsk and Kharkiv received kickbacks to tell pregnant women that their pre-born children were horribly deformed,

even when they were perfectly healthy. These doctors then referred these heartbroken women to abortionists."

According to the article, money was exchanged and fetal body parts made into an injectable "beauty treatment". It is reported that in 2005 there were 41 clinics offering this type of "beauty treatment" in Moscow and it is believed that there are even more now.

While grieving the loss of human life in Eastern Europe and the horrible injustice done these women, I also note that the efforts of those dear folks back in the 1980's to vote with their pocketbooks here in the U.S. were effective in calling out similar practices in our own country, leading to an end. By the grace of God, U.S. cosmetic companies are no longer profiting from the death of the unborn and for that we can be thankful!

The full article is available at HLI

We thank you, Father for those who have taken a stand for Life before us! Please bring the day soon, when the idols of money and beauty will no longer receive the sacrifices of Your precious little ones anywhere in this world!

—LL

Go Team!

The Life Team at Trinity, Roselle, has found a new way to support their pastor in his life ministry! Since they are in the kind of community where new members who come their way may not be from a Lutheran background, their pastor has regular confirmation classes for both youth and adults, going through Luther's catechism.

One discovery along the way has been that some of the issues that come up were not so commonly of concern in Luther's day! I'm sure Luther never imagined a time when it would be necessary to define marriage. In our

times, discussion of marriage and sexual purity can encompass topics that require careful presentation of good apologetics, if the goal is to help people draw close to God and live lives pleasing to Him. The Life Team has made Lutherans For Life materials available for their pastor's use in these classes, as needed. And they have been well-received.

Pastors who have a need for such help, can get it directly from Lutherans For Life, if they don't have a Life Team in their congregation. If you do have a Life Team or Life Advocate at your church...ask! They are there to

serve! I can't imagine that any of them would hesitate to help do the legwork of finding the appropriate LFL materials on any topic that might be needed.

Working together, we can serve those who want answers to their questions about our church and its beliefs. Or those who need to understand how the issues of our day can have the Gospel of Grace applied to them.

Thanks for sharing a great idea, Ginny and the Trinity Life Team! —LL



Psalm 77...Remembering God's wonders in adoption details

¹¹ I will remember the deeds of the LORD;

yes, I will remember your wonders of old.

¹² I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds.

¹³ Your way, O God, is holy.

What god is great like our God?

¹⁴ You are the God who works wonders;

you have made known your might among the peoples. "

When my mother and her siblings were left as orphans at their

mother's death, she was only 3 years old. Her overwhelmed father realized this was a task beyond his abilities. By the grace of God, he took the children to their grandmother, my great grandmother. She knew this was a job for someone younger and got word to another of her daughters who was pioneering with her husband in "the wild west" of Canada at the time. They left that all behind and came home to Illinois to provide a loving, Christian home and upbringing for my mother and her sister and brother. Every step of the way, God was watching over them. And through His tender care, even provid-

ing for the next generation so I could know the love of family and the love of my Savior.

Now I'm the mother and I can look back on the adoption of our youngest son and know that God worked many miracles for his adoption, too, as we dealt with two governments and many "impossible" situations. God and His mighty works often show up in the smallest of details, as he works to care for His little ones. Not everyone these adoptions touched, was called to adopt, but all of them allowed God to use them for the good of the children. God's mighty works are often our privilege to be a part of just by caring.—LL

Good News for Life...

It is always good to proclaim the mighty works of God. Today, we see Him at work in Slovakia, as announced by 40 Days for Life: What He has done there, He can do anywhere, let's ask Him!

Slovakia's two 40 Days for Life campaigns are **celebrating the passage of a landmark constitutional amendment** that prohibits surrogacy, limits adoption to man-woman couples, requires parental consent for sex education, recognizes only two sexes legally, and safeguards the country's sovereignty from international pressure.

And God used the witness of pro-life Christians to make it happen!

"This historic victory came after a local March for Life where **two undecided politicians were moved by the witness of the faithful**," explained 40 Days for Life director

of international campaigns Robert Colquhoun. "Their votes proved decisive."

Forgiveness and Healing are good news, especially in the aftermath of abortion. Word of Hope has organized a retreat where that is exactly what is offered.

Have you or someone you love experienced abortion and now seek healing, peace, or forgiveness?

Redeeming Grace is a confidential, Christ-centered retreat designed to bring healing and hope to women who have experienced abortion. Offered through a partnership between Lutheran Family Service and Word of

Hope (a ministry of Lutherans for Life), this first-of-its-kind retreat provides a sanctuary for the soul—a sacred space to rest, reflect, and receive Christ's redeeming love.

This small-group, Christ-centered experience offers emotional and spiritual renewal through reflection, fellowship, and activities that draw participants gently toward the hope found only in Jesus.

"Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
—Matthew 11:28 (ESV)

The retreat takes place November 13-16, 2025, at Wildwood Hills Ranch in St. Charles, Iowa.

The cost is only \$75, with generous financial assistance available.

[Click Here](#) OR copy and paste the link below to learn more and register:
word-of-hope.org/rgr

Questions?

Email info@word-of-hope.org

Redeeming Grace

November 13-16, 2025,
Wildwood Hills Ranch in St. Charles, Iowa

Christ-centered confidential retreat for women who have experienced abortion at any point in their lives, where they can find emotional and spiritual renewal.

Scan the QR Code for more information or to register!
-Cost is \$75, financial assistance is available

Questions? Email info@word-of-hope.org

Non Standard Observations

Yes there is a National Day for just about everything! I ran across a couple that might actually be of help as you affirm Life.

National Pro-Life Cupcake Day is October 9th. I'm trying not to be incredulous, but can't help suspecting this one was begun by a trade association for bakeries! The idea is not altogether bad, however. If there is someone you know you need

to speak with about Life Issues, why not take them some cupcakes or go out to a place known to have good ones in order to sweeten that conversation? Winsome speech is always a winner!

October 21st is a bit more somber in its tone, but in some contexts may bring home the message of Life, as well. That is the Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity. The idea for this one is that many voices have been si-

lenced by abortion, not to mention other anti-life measures currently in vogue. It requires a little advance preparation to be effective, but amounts to taking a vow of silence on this day as a way to remember those whose voices have been silenced.. In order to be a voice for the voiceless, one would need to prepare in advance a card to hand out, or an armband with words of explanation, perhaps.

—LL

What to remember...

The devil likes to bring to our remembrance all of our past sins...the moments of unchaste thinking, the incidence of rotten speech, the acts of hatred or vengeance, the abortion of our children...it doesn't matter what the sin is, the enemy of our souls likes to see us crushed by the weight of it.

God, on the other hand, tells us in Jeremiah 31, "...I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." Again, in First John 1, verse 9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Not only does God choose to not remember our sins, he forgives them and cleanses

us from *all* unrighteousness! All of it!

Not only that, but knowing our immense need for forgiveness and the lifting of the weight of sin, He invites us to remember something else: Jesus! In First Corinthians 11: 23-26, he invites us to remember Jesus and know the washing of His blood every time we come to the Lord's supper.

"the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread,"²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for^[f] you. Do this in remembrance of me."^[g]

²⁵In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." He gives us His body

to bear the weight of sin, and his blood to wash us clean every time we receive it in the sacrament., as Luther said, "in, with, and under the bread and the wine".

When we do remember Jesus and what He has done, our hearts cry out with thanksgiving. What a Savior!

LL

Let's Pray that those who grieve their sins would be welcomed at the Lord's table so they could remember Him and be set free from the guilt and shame of all their sins! And let's give thanks for this wonderful gift.

Position Statement...Abortion Healing

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
Abortion Healing

WHEREAS, Although abortion ends a pregnancy, it can neither "undo" the pregnancy nor return a woman to the person she was before, rather it changes the way she perceives herself, her sexuality, her relationships, and her ability to make good decisions, and

WHEREAS, Individuals involved in an abortion decision are likely to suffer from guilt, grief, isolation, depression, and other life-disturbing experiences and are in need of compassionate support and constant reassurance of the forgiveness of sins, and

WHEREAS, Lutherans For Life recognizes that the Scriptures declare that:

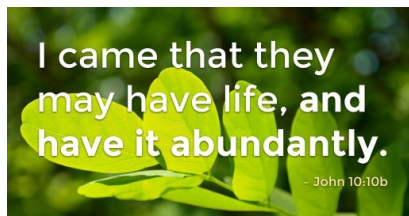
1. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23); and
2. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He [God] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (I John 1:8-9); and
3. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted (Psalm 34:18); and

WHEREAS, Lutherans For Life recognizes the need to provide assistance to persons and families affected by abortion (I John 2:11), therefore be it

RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life continues to support ministries such as Word of Hope which offer assis-

tance to those experiencing the aftermath of abortion (women, men, grandparents, families and siblings) and to inform and care for those individuals to the end that they may receive from Christ comfort in their time of grief, forgiveness for their sins, and the power to forgive themselves and others.

Dear Father, when memory of our sin crushes us with guilt and shame, we come to you for your grace and mercy! You have promised because of the price paid by your Son, Jesus, to forgive and remember our sins no more, and we thank you! Help us extend that same grace and forgiveness to those who are in need today! Help us to remember instead your forgiveness and to rejoice in the newness of Life you have granted! For Jesus' sake, Amen.



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

2026 Illinois

Essay Contest

Sponsored by the LFL Council of Federation Presidents

For Students in Grades 6–8 and 9–12

Any student in a Lutheran school or Lutheran congregation (e.g., confirmation class, youth group, Lutheran home school) is eligible when validated by their teacher or pastor, along with parental consent.

Contest Guidelines

Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme **“That They May Have Life”** using John 10:10, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Examples of topics the essay could deal with are – but are not limited to – abortion, disabilities, adoption, foster care, infanticide, physician-assisted suicide, hospice care, sexual purity, etc. For more information on life topics, see lutheransforlife.org.

The first page of the essay must include the student’s name, grade, school or church, a personal mailing address, email address, and phone number (of the student or parent).

All entries must be submitted by a teacher or pastor and include their contact information.

Grades 6–8 should submit essays up to 400 words. The word count does not include the title, footnotes, or bibliography.

Grades 9–12 should submit essays up to 750 words. The word count does not include the title, footnotes, or bibliography.

Entries must be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word or Google Docs (*PDF files or other formats will not be accepted*). Email your entry to **Cathy Benning** at cathy.benning.os@gmail.com by March 15, 2026.

The omission of any of the following required items will cause disqualification of the essay:

The essay must include the entire theme and entire theme Bible verse as part of the written text.

Each essay must include a title. Using the required theme as a title is acceptable but does not replace using the theme and verse within the essay.

The essay must be in complete agreement with the Lutherans For Life mission to “Equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life”.

A Bibliography listing sources used is required.

Exceeding the appropriate word count is not acceptable.

Essays should make good use of standard essay writing components, including introduction and conclusion, main points, organization, style, mechanics, sources, and bibliography (*See page 2 for directions on using these elements*).

There will be a \$200 first-place award and a \$100 second-place award for each of the two categories. The two first place category winners will advance to the national contest.

The national award for the winning entry in each category is \$500 for first place, plus free conference registration to the 2026 Lutherans For Life conference for the student and his/her parents, one-night stay at the conference hotel for the student and his/her parents, \$200 travel expense reserved for conference travel only, and a framed certificate. The second-place award is \$250 and a framed certificate.

All entries, including exclusive copyrights, become the property of Lutherans For Life.

For support or resources on the sanctity of life, see lutheransforlife.org.

Helpful Information about Good Essay Structural Elements

Introduction and Conclusion – The reader is engaged by a well-developed introduction that creates interest. The conclusion effectively wraps up the essay by clearly drawing a conclusion to support the essay position.

Main Points – The main idea and statements are clear and may come from a variety of sources, including personal experience, observations, feelings, or prior knowledge. Supporting details are accurate and helpful to the main point. Statistics and other research, if used, are used effectively.

Organization – The essay shows a logical progression of ideas that enhance the essay. Transitions are graceful, with a smooth flow.

Style – The paper is honest and enthusiastic. The language is natural and shares a message from the heart of the writer. Writing is smooth, skillful, and makes sense.

Mechanics – Punctuation, spelling, and capitalizations are correct with no run-on sentences.

Sources – All sources for references, statistics, and quotes are referenced within the essay by listing the author or source in parentheses after the quote.

Bibliography – A simple bibliography/works-cited page gives references for the sources used including the author, source title, page number or website.



Ready, Set, Write!



Fostering Life...Life Song for Orphans

November is National Adoption Awareness Month. God has set the example of adoption by adopting us as His children through the work of Jesus on our behalf. From that perspective, all of us who are Christians are adopted!

It was President Bill Clinton who expanded National Adoption Day (November 23rd) to make it a whole month. Clinton's birth father died shortly before he was born. When he was 15, his name was legally changed to Clinton, the name of his stepfather. He is quoted, "We must work tirelessly to make sure that every boy and girl in America who is up for adoption has a family waiting to reach for him or her."

Gerald Ford, our 38th president, was named for his stepfather and didn't even realize he had a "birth father" until he was 17

years old. Ford said, "I didn't understand exactly what a stepfather was. Dad and I had the closest, most intimate relationship."

All the way back to our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, we hear a man whose mother died when he was nine years old, calling his step mother Sarah, "mother." He said, "Love is the chain whereby to bind a child to its parents." He referred to his stepmother as his "best friend in this world."

You don't have to be a president to celebrate adoption, however! This November, we can celebrate with families who are being built through adoption. Why not throw a shower for the new parents? Just like we throw them for those who build their family through childbirth.



If a family in your church is in the process of adopting a child, you can also celebrate by pointing them to the Lutherans For Life of Illinois Adoption Assistance Fund! It is managed by Life Song for Orphans and is available to members of the Lutheran Church in Illinois to help cover the amazing costs of adoption. If you want to apply for a matching grant to fund an adoption or if you want to contribute to the fund, contact:

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

If you are donating, be sure to write in the memo line, Lutherans For Life, IL #P576. Since Life Song has a multitude of projects to help orphans, this will let them know which one you mean to support.

—LL

THANKS FOR YOUR GIFTS!

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

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

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

(Inspired by LFL-Kansas Newsletter)

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

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

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affirm Life
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Let's Pray!

1. Remembering baby Moses and how "he was beautiful in God's sight", we thank God for every baby He has created! May they all, like Moses, find a place to safely grow in our day! May God deliver each of them whose life is at risk!
2. Remembering the Israelites who stood between Pharaoh's army and the Red sea, may we remember parents who find themselves between a rock and a hard place today. Just as our almighty God opened a way for the Israelites to cross the sea, may he make a way for them to choose Life, confident in His provision and grateful for His care!
3. Remembering the midwives of ancient Israel, who in defiance of Pharaoh's decree, allowed the babies they delivered to live, we thank you for all those who have laid down their own pursuits in order to preserve Life in our day: workers at maternity homes, workers at pregnancy help centers, doctors and nurses who refuse to engage in "mercy killing", and those who shelter and help those fleeing human trafficking, sidewalk counselors and all others who



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;

have taken a stand for life that puts them at odds with the authorities or their employers. Protect them and bless them in every way!

4. Remembering Stephen and his dying wish that you not condemn his executioners for his sake, but rather extend grace and forgiveness to them, we ask you to help us look at those who oppose us in the same light, seeing them as people for whom you sent your son Jesus to be their redeemer!
5. Remembering your vision for Peter and his ministry to Cornelius and his friends and family, we thank you that you have

made and loved people of every nationality. We ask that you would make your mighty presence known among those of our brothers and sisters who may be facing persecution here in the U.S., or in any other country, that the value of their human lives would be known and respected. Grant us hearts like Peter, willing to bow before Your will that they not be called "common or unclean" among us who love You!

6. Remembering the wisemen and the detour to their journey home that You arranged to preserve the Life of our Savior until the fullness of time so that He could finally say, "It is finished!", we ask you to direct events in such a way that those in authority are unable to prematurely take the lives of anyone! Thank you for every day of Life you grant each of us! Make us to use them for your glory!
7. Remembering our Lord Jesus and his unspeakable gift of His life given to redeem ours, we give you thanks with every breath you give us! We come before you with songs of thanksgiving and filled with joy that we belong to You! For His sake, Amen!