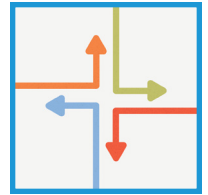


Directions ...

For LFL's Frontline
September-October
2026



Directions is sent bi-monthly to Lutherans For Life's State Federations, Life Chapters, Life Teams, and Life Advocates. Each issue contains a Bible study, Life Project ideas, LFL resources, upcoming events, For Life information, and more.



This edition of Directions includes ...

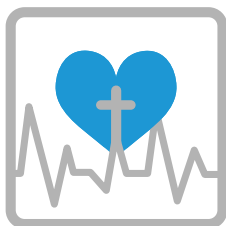
A Bible Study on Stress

Life Project: Life Sunday | Life Week 2027

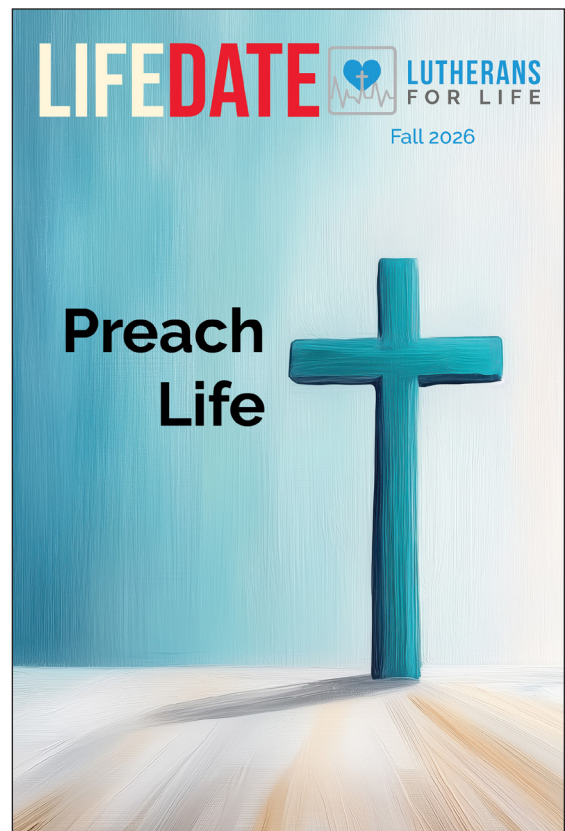
Lutherans For Life of Missouri

2027 Lutherans For Life Essay Contest

Cori Meier | Interim Director, Y4Life



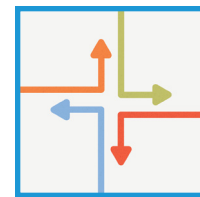
**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**



lutheransforlife.org/resources/journal

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, October 12, 2026 • 7:00-8:00 p.m. CDT | 8:00-9:00 p.m. EDT
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88032005720> | Meeting ID 880 3200 5720 | Passcode 710456

Life Project: Advice & Encouragement for New Dads – Welcoming a newborn baby into the world is exciting but can be overwhelming, especially when it's your first time. Memorial Lutheran Life Team in Houston, Texas, gathered words of advice from fathers in the congregation and compiled them into a book, *Lutheran Advice and Encouragement for First-Time Dads*, to gift to new dads.

National Essay Contest – Jill Johnsen, President of the South Dakota Federation, and Michele Hartshorn, LFL Director of Volunteer Relations, will present an overview of the 2027 National Essay Contest.

Life Week 2027 – Cori Meier, Interim Director of Y4Life, will guide us through everything we need to know about Life Week 2027. Life Week provides all of us with multiple opportunities to enrich our knowledge about life issues and gives us valuable resources to share with our congregations as well. Come and learn what we have to offer!

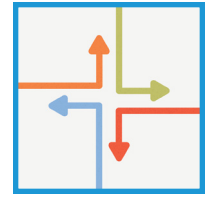
Devotions – Led by Rev. Joseph Signore, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Ocala, Florida.

Our Frontline Calls are a great way to get new ideas for sharing the For Life message as well as enjoying online fellowship with other members of LFL's Frontline! Please encourage everyone on your Life Team or Life Chapter to attend—and Life Advocates, too!



A Bible Study on Stress

by Deaconess Amanda Nicks



There are many ways in which stress can impact our life. This can affect how we interact with our loved ones and neighbors. How many times have you been short with someone because stress has a strong hold on you and your emotions? Has stress ever caused you to be in poor health, which then prevented you from serving your neighbor? Have you been there for your neighbor as they are in a stressful situation? Speaking For Life can cause moments of stress when facing the pro-choice culture we live in.

We have all experienced stress in our lives at some point. This stress can have a wide variety of causes. Events such as war, flood, earthquakes, fires, and much more are stressful. Significant life changes such as divorce, death, loss of job, illness, and such events create stressful times. Even the everyday hassles of life can generate stress. When these little things are taken one at a time, they might not seem like much and are easier to handle. But so often these accumulate and greatly impact our bodies and minds—ultimately, our quality of life.

In stressful situations, your body dumps stress chemicals, such as adrenaline and cortisol, into your system. Over time, these stress chemicals can accumulate and cause health problems. One of the most fundamental consequences is that your immune system becomes weakened, and that opens the door for all kinds of physical ailments. Here are some of them:

- High blood pressure and heart disease
- General physical ailments such as rashes, trouble sleeping, tension headaches, etc.
- Psychological disarray such as anxiety, phobic disorders, PTSD, depression, etc.
- Self-medication with such things as drug and alcohol abuse
- Damaged relationships from arguments, short temper, and generally unhappy, worrisome conditions

Do you or have you ever suffered any of the above as a direct result of too much stress in your life?

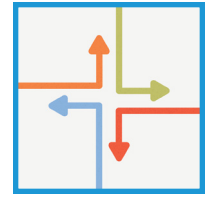
Sometimes not having the skills necessary in some areas of life can lead to a build-up of stress, such as:

- Inadequate communication skills
- Inadequate skills in relationships, resulting in conflict
- Poor time management that keeps you behind in your deadlines
- Problems in the workplace, such as difficulties with co-workers
- Insufficient parenting skills that keep the family in an uproar

Have any of the above been a source of stress for you in the past or present? What areas of skill development could be improved in your life to help with stress management?



Many of us have skills to manage stress, but sometimes we need different techniques to help lower tension. There are many resources to help manage stress, but let's examine what God's Word has to say.



Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-28. Paul describes some of the constant stresses he faced as a Christian. What were some of them?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. What does Paul say about the afflictions and struggles we face? How does this bring us comfort and peace in times of stress?

What is the purpose of the Sabbath day in Deuteronomy 5:14? Do people today remember to do this? What are the benefits of going to church on Sunday? How can this reduce stress?

What did Jesus tell His disciples in the face of overwhelming work? See Mark 6:31. How can this reminder be beneficial as we serve on the Frontline?

Read Luke 22:39-46. How did Jesus prepare Himself for a stressful situation?

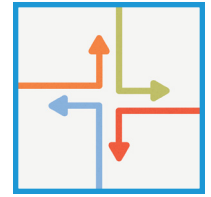
In Philippians 4:4-9, Paul shares two things we can do to help alleviate stress. What are they?

Read 1 Peter 5:7-11. What two things does Peter remind us to do? Who makes us strong, firm, and steadfast in faith in Christ? How is this knowledge comforting?

May God lessen any stress you may be facing! And when you face stressful situations as a voice For Life, may the Holy Spirit work through you and give you guidance, strength, and words to speak.



The Frontline Playbook Series – Hopeful



Volunteer Relations is excited to share with you—thanks to a generous Mission Grant from the LWML Iowa East District—that we have launched the second edition of the Frontline Playbook Series called **Hopeful**. LFL will be sending a printed copy of **Hopeful** to all Life Advocates, Life Teams, Life Chapters, and State Federations.

This **Hopeful** edition is inspired by these words from Psalm 147:3, 11: **“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds ... but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.”**

Each of the four topics contained in this edition will provide a sense of being hopeful as God welcomes people into His household. What a blessing to share this hopeful news with others through these presentations!

Within each Frontline Playbook issue will be four topical presentations and associated resources. Each topic includes a video presentation, devotion, fact sheet, and activity sheet. Use these resources to plan or implement an event, a Bible study, or another creative way to use the material provided.

The **Hopeful** topics are:

- Just As ... I Am Surviving and Thriving
- Blessed with Hope
- Life Shines at Church
- Just As ... I Am as Male or Female

You may use the entire Playbook as an educational opportunity for your life ministry group during your meetings. Consider sponsoring an event at church and include the video presentations and other useful resources. Talk to your pastor about using these during a Bible study hour for either large or small group studies. Each video will run for about 40 to 60 minutes, giving you time to review the fact sheet and do an activity. You may choose to engage people in an activity either pre- or post-event to spur interest in the actual event.

We suggest you use the devotion provided as an opening followed by the video, which can be accessed from a video link on our LFL page at lutheransforlife.org/frontline-playbook-hopeful. The **Hopeful** booklet will give you examples of how to plan these projects and will include complete details of the options and important things to consider in planning your event. The booklet shares a sneak preview of the four topical presentations and associated resources in the **Hopeful** Playbook.

As you plan your For Life goals for 2027, please consider including the Frontline Playbook series in your plans. Please reach out to Volunteer Relations with any questions or for more information.

Frontline Playbook Series

This is a collection of life-affirming resources in a series of programs with each having its own theme. All items are usable in group settings or one-on-one activities. Each life topic has multiple elements. Use them as a complete program or as a stand-alone resource.

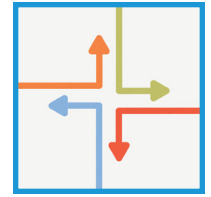


HOPEFUL

“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds...but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.” (Psalm 147:3,11)



Life Project: Ideas for Life Sunday



While it may seem far away, Life Sunday, which is set for January 17, 2027, will be here before we know it.

The theme for 2027 is **“That They May Have Life,”** which is based on John 10:10: **“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”**

THAT THEY MAY HAVE
LIFE

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who laid down His own life and took it up again to give life to His sheep. By reconciling sinners to God through His blood, Jesus gives more than everlasting life; He gives everlasting life in communion with God. Life in communion with God is the truly abundant life, in which God gives His sheep all that they need for this world and the next. Knowing that Christ has laid down His life to give this abundant life to all people, we strive to be Gospel-motivated voices, caring about both the physical and spiritual lives of each one of our neighbors from the moment of their conception until their natural death, regardless of their physical condition.

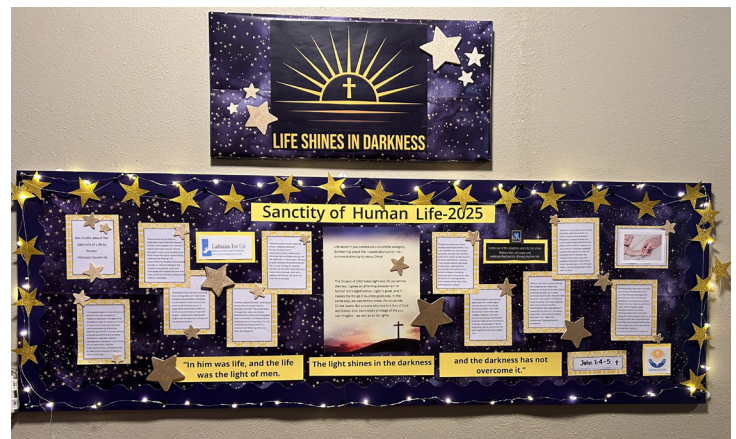
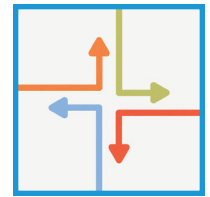
If your church hasn't observed Sanctity of Human Life Sunday previously, you can begin planning now by talking to your pastor and reviewing our resources online. You may find our Life Sunday resources—sermons, Bible studies, bulletin inserts, and more—on our website: lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2027. We pray that these resources provide valuable information, as well as encouragement to you, your congregation, and community.

Many groups observe the Sanctity of Life Sunday every year. Here are some additional ideas from our Life Advocates, Life Teams, and Life Chapters:

- Some groups have a permanent display of life-affirming material. Life Sunday is a good day to highlight the display or put up a temporary display. Fetal models can be displayed. If you don't have fetal models, they can be purchased from Heritage House (pro.life). There are various sizes available. Some groups purchase the 12-week fetal models or the Precious Feet pins for church members to take home. Some groups have even provided activity sheets with crayons for the children, and another gives a life-affirming bookmark to the Sunday School children.
- Along with a display, some groups have a rocking chair, bassinet, and small table with a single rose in a vase near the information table. Other items that can be added are crutches, cane, wheelchair, or any item that aids the understanding that life issues occur from fertilization to forever.
- You can host coffee hour and provide snacks for Bible class. One church hosts a Life Sunday Breakfast. Bake sales have been organized by some life groups to raise funds for more materials and resources for their life ministry. Hosting a dinner with a guest speaker is another wonderful option to bring light to pressing topics in the life arena.
- Consider providing the altar flowers for that Sunday. One Life Team gifts an arrangement to the youngest and oldest member in church that day.



- Feel free to encourage the Lutheran churches in your area to observe Life Sunday. You can do this by delivering bulletin inserts or providing information on how to obtain them.
- Display any life-affirming banners your church may have.
- Items and money can be collected to donate to local pregnancy resource centers, nursing homes, etc. Many groups will kick off their baby bottle fundraiser this Sunday.
- This Sunday is a special time to share with the congregation all that you have been doing as a Life Advocate, Life Team, or Life Chapter. You can share about the events you have done the previous year and share your future plans and hopes. This would be a great opportunity to invite congregation members to join you!
- There's a Life Team that celebrates life by hosting a cake reception and recognizing those who were baptized the previous year. They were gifted a baptism ornament. Another group presents a rose to the families who had a baby baptized the previous year.



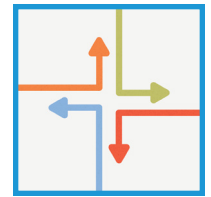
Life Week 2027

Sunday, January 17, is also the first day of Life Week. Some of you may even be attending the March for Life in Washington, D.C., on January 22, 2027. The Life Week resources will be posted soon here: lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2027. You are welcome to use these resources and materials as they best suit your life ministry group, congregation, and community.

These are just a few ideas that our Frontlines have shared. The important thing is that by reminding people of the sanctity of life, we also remind them how valuable that life is. Thanks be to God for these opportunities to share His love For Life!



Deaconess Amanda Nicks Installed as Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations



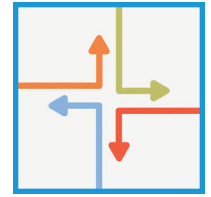
Deaconess Amanda Nicks was installed as Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations for Lutherans For Life during the 10:15 a.m. service on Sunday, July 26, at First Lutheran Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske led the installation service and also delivered the sermon.

You can view the installation at this link: www.youtube.com/live/gUJO81NLAsQ?si=A0xJW2e9bUXtE3iC.

Find out more about Volunteer Relations at: lutheransforlife.org/volunteer-relations.



Lutherans For Life of Missouri



Respectfully submitted by Mike Albers, President

“Because the poor are plundered, because the needy groan, I will now arise,” says the Lord. ‘I will place him in the safety for which he longs’” (Psalm 12:5).

Roe v. Wade had basically snuck in under the radar of many people. An after effect was the waking up of the life-affirming Christian community. It was a time when much education was needed—Gospel-motivated education. The “poor” and “needy” were *not* safe.

In 1986, Lutherans For Life of Missouri was formed. Jeanne McKay, the first president, along with Rev. Walter Loeber, Leonard Wallenmeyer and others, met at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, California, Missouri. With a lot of hard work and time, chapters were formed. In 1993, Diane Albers became president and led for 30 years. During that time the concept of Life Teams was developed. LFL of Missouri now consists of 10 Life Chapters and six Life Teams.

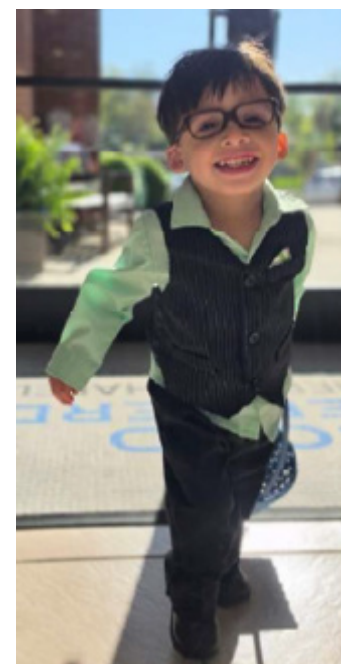
The board of LFL of Missouri meets three times each year: twice in person and once by Zoom. The members are Mike Albers, President; Barb Stahlman, Vice President; Sylvia Glenn, Secretary; John Mueller; Treasurer; Kim Deluce, Elaine Ott, Linda Gasau, Diane Albers, Laura Grise, Ruth Kirchhoff, and Pastor Brian Whittle.

The board has a heart for the education and involvement of Missouri’s youth. We were the first ones to involve sixth through eighth graders in writing life essays. The contest is now a National Essay Contest, available for sixth through eighth grade, and ninth through twelfth grade. Several of our children have been national winners, several placing second. We have our own poster contest for the younger ones in third through fifth grade. In honor of a long-time board member, the Leonard Wallenmeyer Life Award was recently developed. Lutheran senior students may apply for this award, granting up to \$1,000 in scholarship funds. Last year three awards were given.

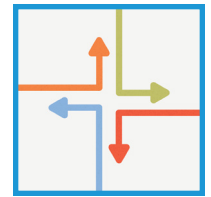
The Y4Life program of National LFL has blossomed. Recently we received a request from LFL of Nebraska to help the Bulldogs Life Team of CUNE attend the events of the March for Life in D.C. We helped. We then decided that we should help our own students. We developed a plan. We developed a plan to award \$100 grants to Lutheran High School students planning to attend events during Life Week. Last year we were able to assist 25 students from Calvary Lutheran.

We created our “Adoption Fund” to assist families wishing to bring a child into their fold. Together with Lifesong, and the families themselves raising part of the funds, our fund enables this blessed event to occur. Many Missouri Lutherans have generously given to our special fund. So far one family has proceeded with the process. The result is this happy young boy, Zeke.

Newsletters have been mailed out for more than 40 years. They are produced quarterly. We have asked members to receive it by email if possible. Over 250 folks currently do, saving us printing and mailing costs. It was decided a few



years ago to make the summer newsletter an email issue only. In fact, every quarter an email version is also sent out and posted on our website at lflofmo.org. This method gives us the freedom to put a lot more information in it than the eight pages of the printed version.



Every year we hold a summit. This typically occurs in late April, depending on the date of Easter. A host congregation opens their doors to us. A brief meeting is held, essay and poster award winners recite and display if they can attend, and the Leonard Wallenmeyer Life Award winners are invited to attend and be recognized. This is followed by a speaker, lunch, and a second speaker. This year Dr. Jeff Gibbs, professor emeritus at Concordia Seminary St. Louis (CSSL), led us in learning “Life Apologetics.” He was followed by Susan Klein, Executive Director of Missouri Right to Life. She presented on the upcoming Amendment 3 on the November ballot. It will restore the lost life-affirming laws removed from our state constitution two years ago.

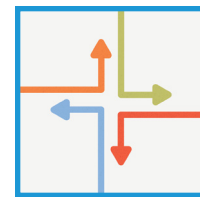
We make it a habit to attend and display at the various conferences held throughout the year. The regulars are the pastors’ conference and the educators’ conference. This year included the Missouri District LWML conference. We also display at the Midwest March for Life in Jefferson City and the March to the Arch in St. Louis.

Every year from Mother’s Day to Father’s Day, we hold Missouri’s Largest Diaper Drive. Life Chapters and Life Teams will collect diapers and typically other items for babies. This year we had a record 34,348 diapers gathered and given to various local pregnancy centers. Our board decided to also send \$50 to each of the charities that these were donated to. We are working to increase the number of Life Chapters and Life Teams, particularly in areas without representation. We have been very blessed in this endeavor. May God give us strength to carry on and for more life-affirming Missourians to join in.

For more information, contact Mike Albers at lflofmo@gmail.com or visit the website at lflofmo.org.



Cori Meier Serving as Interim Director of Y4Life



Cori Meier has accepted the opportunity to serve as the Interim Director of **Y4Life**! **Y4Life**, the youth branch of Lutherans For Life, seeks to equip high-school and college-aged youth, young adults, and their leaders to be Gospel-motivated voices 4 Life, publicly and privately pronouncing with joy “You are made 4 LIFE!” as well as answering the question: Why should I be 4 Life? Through service, education, worship, and celebration, youth are encouraged to engage in life-affirming activities and become Leaders 4 Life in their schools, communities, nation, and world!

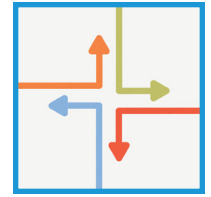
Cori Meier joined Lutherans For Life as the **Y4Life** Assistant in May 2022. She grew up in York, Nebraska, where she attended Emmanuel-Faith Lutheran School and York High School. Cori then went on to study business at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln (Go Big Red!) and graduated in 2018 with a degree in business management and marketing. While attending UNL, she attended church at the University Lutheran Chapel on campus. Cori met her husband Alex in 2017, and they were married June 1, 2019. They moved to Kansas City in 2019, where they lived for three years before moving back to Nebraska in 2022.

Cori and Alex have been blessed with three children: Dean (5), Claire (3), and Grant (2 months). They are avid fans of the Nebraska Cornhuskers and enjoy watching many Nebraska teams. They also enjoy reading together as a family, playing board games, baking together, and having regular movie nights. In her free time, Cori enjoys crocheting, cooking, and reading. The Meier family lives in Columbus, Nebraska, and attends Peace Lutheran Church.

You can reach Cori at cori@y4life.org.



Children of the Word



“From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger” (Psalm 8:2).

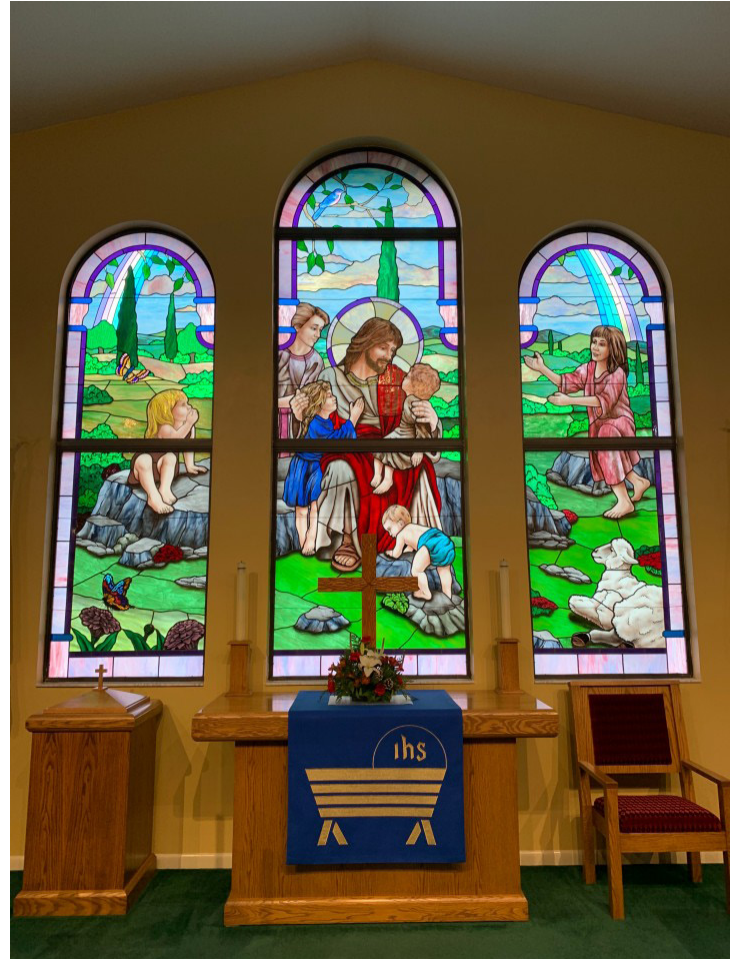
Summer is the season especially enjoyed by the children. There might be a trip to the beach, an opportunity to play all day with friends, and lots of free time! It’s fun to watch the children enjoy themselves during these months. It’s also the time when Vacation Bible Schools are often in session—a time when the Lord Jesus can speak in a special way to the children.

For He loves them and wants nothing but to keep His eye on them and share His goodness with them. Remember the time He took the children in His arms and blessed them? He is particularly concerned that children learn about Him. He wants them to know about the cross and about His love for them. He wants them to know that He will take care of them and be with them every day of their lives. He wants them to know that He forgives them when they do something wrong.

The devil, on the other hand, hates these little believers. He hates them because they dismiss him so simply. The smallest child can silence the evil one with a mere Sunday School song like “Jesus Loves Me.” In their young, childlike faith, they have not yet become entangled in the “reason” of this age. They hear the word of their Savior and they believe it without question, just like they accept the words of their father or mother. They love Jesus because they know and trust that He loves them.

Satan tries his best to quiet the praises of God throughout the world, but whether it be 3,000 children in India or the three in your own household, we find the words of the Psalm coming true: **“From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise ... to silence the foe and the avenger.”**

(Source: www.redeemerclc.info/ministries)



2027 Lutherans For Life Essay Contest

The Lutherans For Life Essay Contest is sponsored by the LFL Council of Federation Presidents.

Our 2027 Lutherans For Life Essay Contest Theme: **Be Bold For Life.**

Our theme verse: “**Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!**” (Psalm 31:24).

The Lutherans For Life Council of Federation Presidents sponsors an essay contest each year for students in two grade categories: 6-8 and 9-12.

This contest is available for students in all states who attend a Lutheran school or a Lutheran church.

State essay contests precede the national essay contest. State essay winners in the two grade categories will be entered into the national contest. Note: Individual state rules may vary slightly, so be sure to access those rules through the state links and listings below.

Some states have LFL State Federations. If you are a student in a state without a federation, you can participate through the Non-Federation Essay Contest.

We look forward to students across the nation participating in our contest and letting their voices be heard through their life-affirming essays!

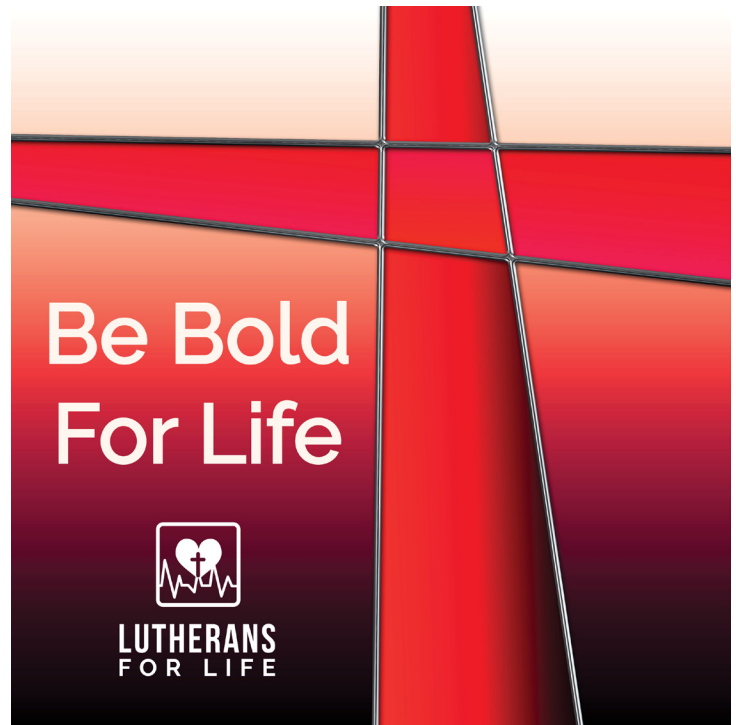
Questions? Please contact Michele Hartshorn at mhartshorn@lutheransforlife.org.

lutheransforlife.org/2027-lfl-essay-contest

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2026 LFL NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS!

First Place: **Olivia Brown**, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Spearfish, South Dakota, is the national first place winner in grades 9-12. Olivia was a senior when she wrote her essay. Her essay is titled “That They May Have Life.” You may read Olivia’s essay and see a video at: lutheransforlife.org/article/that-they-may-have-life-a-2026-lfl-essay-contest-winner-grades-9-12.

Fist Place: **Connor Jones**, Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Collinsville, Illinois, is the national first place winner in grades 6-8. Connor was a seventh grade student at Good Shepherd Lutheran School when he won this award. Connor’s essay is titled “Against the Odds.” You may read Connor’s essay and see a video at: lutheransforlife.org/article/against-the-odds-a-2026-lfl-essay-contest-winner-grades-6-8.





THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." *Jesus*



LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE



Life Sunday 2027: That They May Have Life

"That They May Have Life" is Lutherans For Life's theme for **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**, which is set for **January 17, 2027**. Your congregation can observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on that date or at any time during the year.

Our **Life Sunday 2027** theme is based on John 10:10: **"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."**

Use our **Life Sunday 2027** 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.

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

lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2027

lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2027 • **January 17-23, 2027**



LIFE WEEK 2027



That They May Have *Life*

Sunday, January 17, 2027

That They May Have Life ... by Design

Life Topic: Marriage & Family

Speaker: Lukas Woodford

Pre-recorded for flexible use.

Monday, January 18, 2027

That They May Have Life ... in the Flesh

Life Topic: The Sacredness of the Body

Speaker: Dr. Rick Marrs

Pre-recorded for flexible use.

Tuesday, January 19, 2027

That They May Have Life ... through Fellowship

Life Topic: Longing for Relationship

Speaker: Rev. James Neuendorf

Pre-recorded for flexible use.

Wednesday, January 20, 2027

That They May Have Life ... while Serving

Life Topic: Compassion for Neighbor

Speaker: Gene Ernst

Pre-recorded for flexible use.

Thursday, January 21, 2027

That They May Have Life ... in Times of Trial

Life Topic: Enduring Trials

Speaker: Katie and Josiah Coblentz

Session live in Washington, D.C.

Friday, January 22, 2027

That They May Have Life ... with Humility

Life Topic: Trust in God

Speaker: Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher

Session live in Washington, D.C.

Saturday, January 23, 2027

That They May Have Life ... for Eternity

Life Topic: Promise of the Resurrection

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison

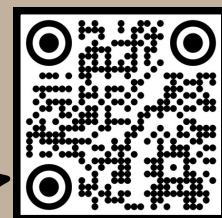
Session live in Washington, D.C.

All online sessions will be pre-recorded for flexible use at home, church, or school.

Questions? Email

lifeweek2027@lutheransforlife.org

Scan the QR code for full details and additional resources!



Y4LIFE

in Washington, D.C.

THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE

January 21-23, 2027 / Crystal City, VA

In Times of Trial

Thursday, January 21, 2027

6:00 PM	Registration and Exhibits
7:00 PM	Opening Devotions
7:30 PM	Introductions & Icebreakers
8:00 PM	Session 1: Katie and Josiah Coblentz
9:00 PM	Sign Making, Exhibits, and Social Time
10:00 PM	Compline

With Humility

Friday, January 22, 2027

9:00 AM	Session 2: Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa
10:00 AM	Pre-March Devotion
12:00 PM	March For Life
6:00 PM	Exhibits and Social Time
7:00 PM	Post-March Discussion
8:00 PM	Session 3: Bioethics Panel Discussion
9:00 PM	Compline

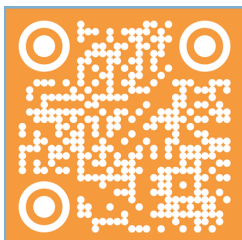
For Eternity

Saturday, January 23, 2027

8:30 AM	Session 4: Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison
9:30 AM	Session 5: Rev. Brady Finnern
10:30 AM	Closing Devotion

Register for the conference at Y4Life.org or by scanning the QR code below. Registration is open Sept. 1, 2026 – Dec. 1, 2026. Space is limited!

Double queen rooms cost \$139 per night,
single king rooms cost \$124 per night.
Reserve rooms through Y4Life.



YA FOR LIFE

in Washington, D.C.

THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE

January 21-23, 2027 / Crystal City, VA

In Times of Trial

Thursday, January 21, 2027

6:00 PM	Registration and Exhibits
7:00 PM	Opening Devotions
7:30 PM	Introductions & Icebreakers
8:00 PM	Session 1: Katie and Josiah Coblentz
9:00 PM	Sign Making, Exhibits, and Social Time
10:00 PM	Compline

With Humility

Friday, January 22, 2027

9:00 AM	Session 2: Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa
10:00 AM	Pre-March Devotion
12:00 PM	March For Life
6:00 PM	Exhibits and Social Time
7:00 PM	Post-March Discussion
8:00 PM	Session 3: Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher
9:00 PM	Compline

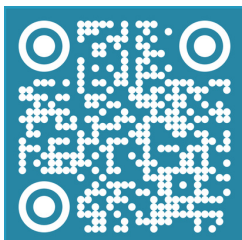
For Eternity

Saturday, January 23, 2027

8:30 AM	Session 4: Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison
9:30 AM	Session 5: Rev. Brady Finnern
10:30 AM	Closing Devotion

Register for the conference at YAForLife.org or by scanning the QR code below. Registration is open Sept. 1, 2026 – Dec. 1, 2026. Space is limited!

Double queen rooms cost \$139 per night,
single king rooms cost \$124 per night.
Reserve rooms through Y4Life.



Serve with Us: Word of Hope Hotline Volunteers Needed

To meet growing demand, Word of Hope is seeking volunteers to help cover the hotline, especially on weekends and during staff travel.

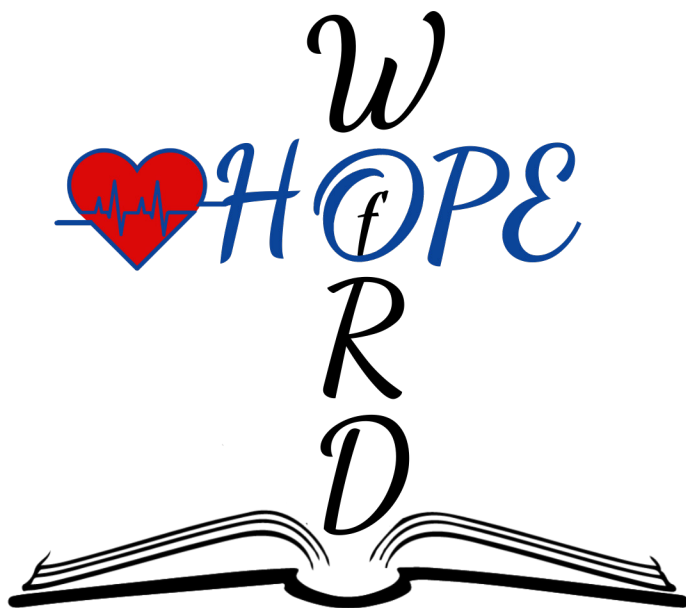
Volunteers serve one weekly four-hour shift between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. (local time), preferably weekends and holidays, but help will be accepted any given day of the week.

Ideal volunteers have a strong catechetical foundation or theological training; basic counseling experience is helpful but not required.

Training, monthly consultation, and ongoing support are provided.

If you feel called to support others with Christ's compassion, please review the job description and send your resume along with the completed application to cgillet@lutheransforlife.org.

The Word of Hope Hotline Volunteer job description, application, and more information about Word of Hope can be found in the March-April 2026 edition of *Directions* (pages 17-22).



Want to be a voice For Life?

Lutherans For Life can help YOU!

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

THREE WAYS TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!

† **It only takes one!** A Life Advocate works with their pastor to share God's love For Life!

† **Grab your friends!** A Life Team is a group of life-affirming volunteers at church creating meaningful and fun ways to support life!

† **Strength in numbers!** A Life Chapter is one or more churches working together to impact their communities.



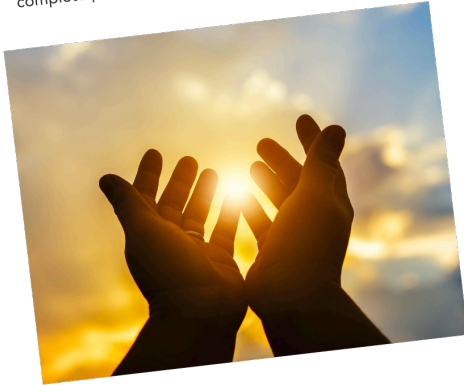
lutheransforlife.org/volunteer-relations/

...from fertilization to forever



Frontline Playbook Series

This is a collection of life-affirming resources in a series of programs with each having its own theme. All items are usable in group settings or one-on-one activities. Each life topic has multiple elements. Use them as a complete program or as a stand alone resource.



HOPEFUL

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds...but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love." (Psalm 147:3,11)

CONDUCT YOUR OWN LIFE EVENT

The Frontline Playbook gives you guidance, ideas, and resources!

Video Presentations
Topical Devotions
Life Topic Facts
Supportive Activities

Follow the link and click on
**FRONTLINE PLAYBOOK
RESOURCES – Hopeful**

lutheransforlife.org/frontlineplaybook/

It's **FREE** and
available **NOW!**

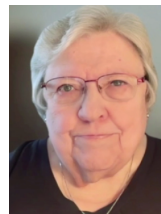
Life Topics in Hopeful



Deaconess
Rachel Geraci
"Just As...I Am Surviving
and Thriving"



Rev. Mark Chavez
"Blessed with Hope"



Virginia Flo
"Life Shines at Church"



Rev. Michael Salemink
"Just As...I Am as Male
or Female"



BECOME A 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.



How do you do this?

- ✓ 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 submits the Congregational House of Refuge agreement.
- ✓ 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.

If you are interested in knowing more, visit
lutheransforlife.org/congregational-house-of-refuge/



Lutherans For Life will work with you to help meet your needs for a speaker or preacher at a worship service, Bible study, circuit pastors' forum, rally, conference, convention, public or parochial school, college/university, workshop/seminar, or just about any other event at your congregation. An LFL speaker will help bring life issue awareness and education to your local Lutheran congregation or church-sponsored community event, even in smaller venues and rural areas. With an LFL speaker, your event will be equipping many others to be "Gospel-motivated voices For Life" in your community.

Not sure where to start? Don't worry. LFL is pleased to offer consultation with a staff member to assist you with identifying needs and brainstorming solutions for your exciting event. Begin your planning now by contacting Lutherans For Life at info@lutheransforlife.org or 515-382-2077.



How much will it cost?

We try to keep your costs as low as possible. For most events, we ask for our expenses to be covered. Also, for most events, we ask that a free-will offering that will be given to LFL be collected from attendees. Specific financial arrangements will vary depending on the speaker and the location of the event, but here are some general guidelines:

- **Airfare/Mileage:** Actual airfare, car rental fee and fuel, and/or \$0.725 per mile to airport or event. (Mileage charges coincide with the current IRS rate.)
- **Lodging:** Quiet non-smoking hotel.
- **Meals:** \$40 per day unless other arrangements are made.
- **Honorarium:** For LFL employees, an honorarium is not necessary. If the sponsor/host wishes to give an additional monetary gift, it should go directly to Lutherans For Life. For volunteer speakers, we ask that sponsoring groups provide an honorarium to the speaker. The sponsoring group determines the amount of the honorarium. Past honorariums have ranged from \$100 to \$500.
- **Other:** A video projector and screen may be needed. (This will vary depending on the speaker and presentation.)

Please keep in mind that these are general guidelines. Our main goal is to share the For Life message in as many locations as possible, while at the same time being good stewards of the resources God has given us.

Are you ready to go to the next step? We look forward to hearing from you!





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.



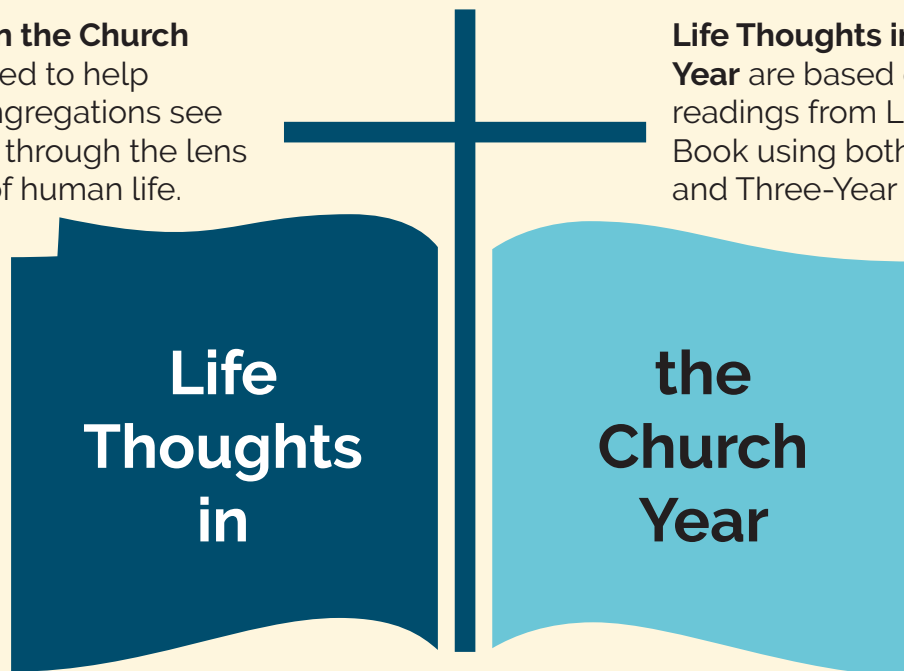
Free Downloadable Resources!

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

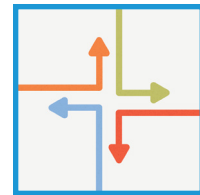
Year are based on the appointed readings from Lutheran Service Book using both the One-Year and Three-Year Lectionaries.



lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-thoughts



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**” (**L**utherans **A**ssembling **M**ercy **B**lankets) 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 Michele Hartshorn at mhartshorn@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.

Michele Hartshorn

Director of Volunteer Relations
612.816.6194
mhartshorn@lutheransforlife.org

Deaconess Amanda Nicks

Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations
231.622.2506
anicks@lutheransforlife.org



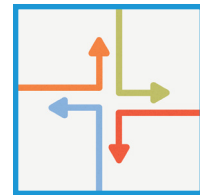
Michele Hartshorn



Deac. Amanda Nicks



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

www.instagram.com/healing_at_wordofhope



- 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.

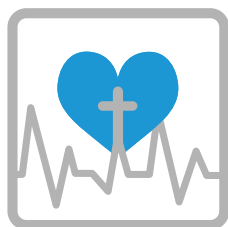
facebook

- *LifeDate* is a great way to share the For Life message with your congregation. Find the online digital edition of *LifeDate* at 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 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 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 Enroll	Tool 4 – Resources Tool 4 contains resources that supplement Tool 2 & Tool 3. free Enroll
 LIFE TEAM Introduction and Roadmap	 LIFE TEAM Leader Training	 LIFE TEAM Member Training	 LIFE TEAM Resources

Register at:

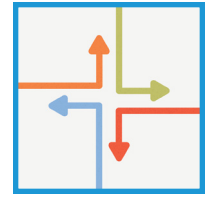
volunteersacademy.lutheransforlife.org

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



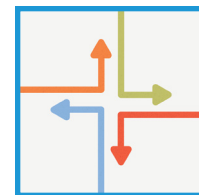
National Lutherans For Life Staff

Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske – Executive Director
Erika Peterson – Business Manager
Lowell J. Highby – Director of Communications
Jan Nessa – Administrative Assistant
Cori Meier – Interim Director, Y4Life
Emma Kettelhake – Interim Assistant, Y4Life
Michele Hartshorn – Director of Volunteer Relations
Deaconess Amanda Nicks – Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations
Dave Probst – Director of Development
Jerilyn Richard – Donor Relations Director
Katie Friedrich – Gift Entry Specialist
Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, PsyD – Director of Word of Hope
Deaconess Janet Nicol – Phone Counselor
Lorelei Humphrey – Word of Hope 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
Col. John Eidsmoe – Pike Road, Alabama
Dr. Adam S. Francisco – Wheaton, Illinois
Kyle McMillian – Sacramento, California

Rev. Dennis Norby, State Representative – Valley City, North Dakota
Jason Reis – Mequon, Wisconsin
Rev. Joseph Signore III – Ocala, Florida
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.





LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

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

[lutheransforlife.org/
resources/store](https://lutheransforlife.org/resources/store)

