

Things to Consider

Engage Church Leadership – It is essential that you speak with your pastor when you intend to sponsor one of the Frontline Playbook events at your church. Get your pastor's approval and ask for insights regarding which variety to utilize and when to conduct the event. Take his advice on whether you need further approval.

Schedule – Check the church and school calendars to be certain there are no conflicting events when you want to schedule yours. Get your event on the calendar.

Promotion – Create a poster/flyer and/or invitation to get the word out to those you intend to invite. Prepare notes for church bulletins (yours and other congregations') and plan when you intend to send those to the various church offices. Use the Fact and Activity Sheets to gather information you may want to post in your church newsletter and website. Work with whomever manages your church social media and send out notices about your event as you near the date.

Pray – Ask the Lord to guide your planning and implementation. And, share your thanksgiving with the Lord as well upon completion of each part of your For Life activity.

Need Help?

If you need help in answering questions about doing a Playbook event, reach out to our Volunteer Relations Team; we are here to help you.

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LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE

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)

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Playbook Components

Devotions – Each life topic will include a corresponding devotion.

Fact Sheets – This collection of facts explains the importance of the life topic to consider from the viewpoint of God's Word. Each Fact Sheet provides a Christian response based on scripture.

Activity Sheets – They provide a variety of activities implementable in your church, school, members' homes, or wherever you determine. Be creative. Create a servant project and make these ideas equipping opportunities.

Videos – A life topic video from our LFL archives of expert presenters will be provided. They have been edited, making them usable as a formal presentation to your entire congregation or in a small group setting. In addition to showing the video at church, consider posting it to your church website, making it available for home viewing.

Speakers (Optional) – If you prefer an on-site speaker, you may do so. Contact LFL if you need help securing an expert topical speaker to fill this need.

Strategies

Use All Components – Sponsor an event that begins with the devotion. Hand out the Fact Sheet either as reference material or review it as a group during the event. Use ideas from the Activity Sheet as a pre-event, during the event, or as a post-event project.

Use Select Components – Use any of the components individually with or without a planned event. The Activity Sheet has great servant project ideas to use at any time.

Just As...I Am as Male or Female



Life Speaker: Rev. Michael Salemink
Pastor and Professor

Video: *"This Is My Body"* (67 minutes)

Topics: Christian compassion and courage concerning sexuality and gender.

Devotion: *"Just As...I Am as Male or Female"*

Fact Sheet: (Sample)

HOPEFUL

MALE OR FEMALE
FACTS

"Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." (Matthew 19:4-6)

Life Issues

- Masculinity/Femininity: 53% of people look up to men who are manly or masculine, but only 32% look up to feminine women.
- Marriage: Millennials are three times more likely never to get married compared to their grandparents.
- Homosexuality/Transgenderism:

Our Christian Response

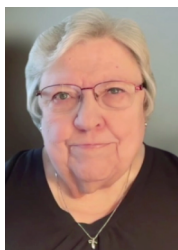
- **Value Both Sexes:** God created man to work and protect (Genesis 2:15). God created woman as man's helpmate (Genesis 2:18).
- **Marriage:** Man shall hold fast to his wife, becoming one flesh, being fruitful and multiplying throughout the earth (Genesis 2:24, 1:28).
- **LGBTQ:** Speak God's truth and

Activity Sheet: Topics include marriage, masculinity and femininity, and homosexuality and transgenderism.

Resources: Find them at lutheransforlife.org/frontlineplaybook/.

View the video online or YouTube from the link provided. You may also download the video to your desktop. The Devotion, Fact Sheet, and Activity Sheet are all downloadable as PDFs.

Life Shines at Church



Life Speaker: Virginia Flo

Former LFL Staff and For Life Speaker

Video: “Life Shines at Church” (45 minutes)

Topics: Life ministry is a vital part of the church as God’s love For Life shines at church.

Devotion: “Life Shines at Church”

Fact Sheet: (Sample)



LIFE SHINES AT CHURCH FACTS

HOPEFUL

Life Issues	His Word
➤ Intergenerational Ministry: “Research indicates that adolescents who attend churches that foster intergenerational relationships are more spiritually developed, have higher attendance rates, and are more satisfied with their religious experience” (Adolescence in the Church: Perspectives from College Students and Adults on Mentorship and Christian Formation By Savannah Spicer). ➤ Family: “Most people who are raised in a single religion—either by two parents of the same faith or by a single parent—retained that religion” (Modeling the Future of Religion in America. Pew Research Center).	➤ Psalm 145:4 “One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.” ➤ 1 Corinthians 12:26-27 “If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” ➤ Psalm 71:17-18 “O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.”
	Our Christian Response ➤ Intergenerational Ministry ○ Teach God’s Word to the next

Activity Sheet: Topics include activity ideas to support life shining at church.

Resources: Find them at lutheransforlife.org/frontlineplaybook/.

View the video online or YouTube from the link provided. You may also download the video to your desktop. The Devotion, Fact Sheet, and Activity Sheet are all downloadable as PDFs.

Be Inclusive – If you sponsor an event for the adults in your church, look for ways to include the youth and younger children with an activity. Encourage parents to engage their children at home or, if you have a school, work with the staff to include students in an activity and share the results with the congregation.

Playbook Usage Variations

Four life topics are provided with the associated resources. From the four options, consider using them in these variations. You may use one or all, depending on the selected variation.

Monthly – One event a week for four weeks.

Quarterly – One event a quarter for a year.

Biannually – One event every six months.

Annually – One event a year.

Equipping Your Life Group – Use these presentations and other information at your meetings to equip those attending.

Promotion

Plan your work and work your plan. Give yourself enough time to avoid rushing and not having ample time for...

Gospel-motivated – Always maintain your focus on being Gospel-motivated in all your promotions. Equipping your constituents through God’s Word is your primary function in helping develop voices For Life.

Communication – Use newsletters, bulletins, personal invitations (verbal, in print, or electronic), social media and Synodical websites, and other means of communication available.

Testimonials – Consider asking people from your church or life group to give a short, personal testimonial on a life experience. This might be done after a worship service, before Bible class, or at some other time when people are gathered together. This could be in-person or via video.

Print Materials – You can provide printed promotion outside of the church bulletins, newsletters, etc., such as postcards, invitations, and other handouts.

Be Creative – Think outside the box. Consider new ways to reach people about your event. Hand out or mail small bags of popcorn to your church members to invite them to a video showing at church or encourage them to watch the video at home with a link to your website or Facebook page.

Just As... I Am Surviving and Thriving



Life Speaker: Deaconess Rachel Geraci

Mother and For Life Speaker

Video: "Just As...I Am Surviving and Thriving"
(38 minutes)

Topics: Motherhood, Preterm Delivery, Mental Health, Rejoicing in God's Gift

Devotion: "Surviving and Thriving"

Fact Sheet: (Sample)

SURVIVING AND THRIVING FACTS

Life Issues

- **Mental Health and Hope:** In addition to improving overall mental health, hope can help heal certain conditions such as suicidal ideation, depression, anxiety, trauma, and other severe mental illness.
- **Hope in Pre-Term Delivery:** In the United States, 1 in 10 babies are born premature; less than 37 weeks of pregnancy. Due to advances in medical technology, preemies born as early as 22 weeks have a 10% chance of survival.
- **Hope in Illness:** Hope facilitates coping, speeds recovery, enhances wellbeing, improves self-esteem, aids in purpose and meaning, and is an

HOPEFUL

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."
(Jeremiah 29:11)

Our Christian Response

- **Focus on Strengths**
 - Building relationship bonds
 - Improve resilience
 - Identify individual strengths
- **Attitude of Gratitude**
 - Show others your appreciation
 - Offer prayers of thanksgiving
 - Acknowledge blessings from the Lord

Activity Sheet: Topics include hope in illness, pre-term delivery, and rejoicing in God's gifts.

Resources: Find them at lutheransforlife.org/frontlineplaybook/.

View the video online or YouTube from the link provided. You may also download the video to your desktop. The Devotion, Fact Sheet, and Activity Sheet are all downloadable as PDFs.

Blessed with Hope



Life Speaker: Rev. Mark Chavez

Pastor and For Life Speaker

Video: "Joy and Death: The Blessing of Falling Asleep in Jesus" (46 minutes)

Topics: God's promise for an abundant and joyful life in Jesus, even during the most difficult experiences like illness and dying.

Devotion: "Blessed with Hope"

Fact Sheet: (Sample)

BLESSED WITH HOPE FACTS

HOPEFUL

"This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life."
(Psalm 119:50)

Love to the End

How to be present and supportive in the final moments of one's life:

- Keep them company (pray, read, sing, hold hands, etc.).
- Talk knowing you are being heard – hearing persists even when one is unresponsive.
- Forgive and seek forgiveness.
- Allow expressions of fear about death without judgement.
- Proclaim the Good News and Christ's promises.

End of Life

Symptoms at the final stage of life:

- Drowsiness
- Becoming unresponsive
- Disoriented about time, place, and people
- Decreased need for food and fluid
- Loss of bladder or bowel control
- Skin cool to the touch
- Labored, irregular, shallow, or noisy breathing

Prolonging Death Versus

Activity Sheet: Topics include declaration of death, end of life, physician-assisted suicide, and prolonging life versus extending life.

Resources: Find them at lutheransforlife.org/frontlineplaybook/.

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