Directions . . .

For LFL's Frontline

November-December 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 …

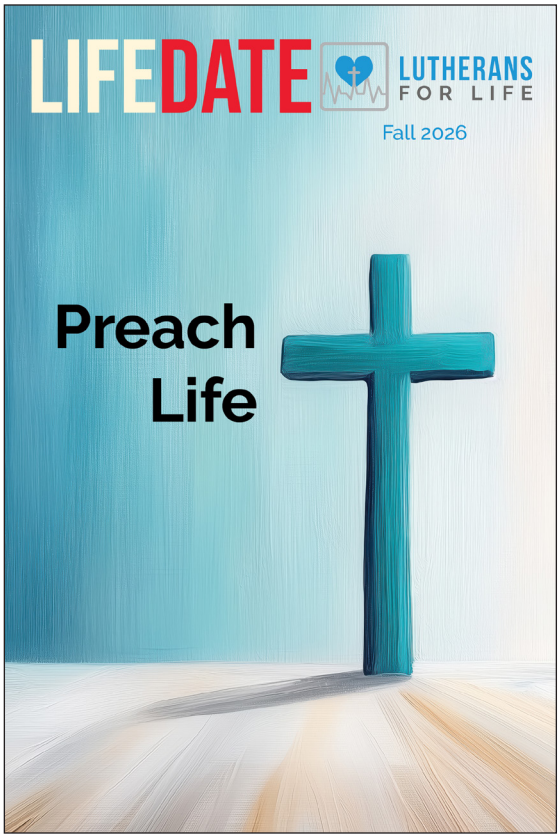
A Bible Study on Waiting

A Sculpture Celebrating God's Gift of Adoption

Lutherans For Life of Michigan

Receiving Christ's Gift – Sharing His Hope!

Staff Profile: Emma Kettelhake



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

lutheransforlife.org/resources/journal



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



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

Monday, January 11, 2027 • 7:00-8:00 p.m. CDT | 8:00-9:00 p.m. EDT
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83815294179 | Meeting ID 838 1529 4179 | Passcode 131433

Life Project – LAMBs – "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward" (Psalm 127:3). Through the craftiness of some LFLers in Ohio, along with the Miami Valley Life Chapter, a project entitled "LAMBs" (Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets) has been created. Although our world might tell us otherwise, children truly are a blessing. Therefore, Lutherans For Life celebrates children, especially those families with a lot of them! They celebrate families that are awaiting the birth of their fourth or more child by gifting them with a homemade blanket. Kimberly Merritt, President of the Miami Valley Life Chapter, and Belen Fry, LAMBs Coordinator, will present on the LAMBs program that has blessed so many moms, dads, and babies over the years. For more information or to request a blanket, please visit lutheransforlife.org/lambs-lutherans-assembling-mercy-blankets.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE
Volunteer Relations

LFL Updates – Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske, LFL's Executive Director, will provide an encouraging highlight of LFL accomplishments in 2026, and an overview of what is planned for 2027.

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!

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? We would like to celebrate these families.

If you have a family in mind at your Lutheran church, please contact Michele Hartshorn at mhartshorn@lutheransforlife.org, and she will arrange for this gift to be sent. Or you can fill out the form below and send it to Belen Fry of the Miami Valley Life Chapter. They 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.

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

Your Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Your Congregation: _____

Mother's & Father's Names: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Baby's Gender: Boy ☐ Girl ☐

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



SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendar for the 2027 Frontline Calls on the following Mondays at 7:00 p.m. CDT | 8:00 p.m. EDT

January 11

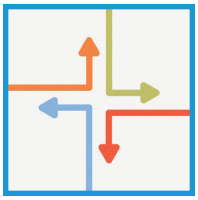
April 12

July 12

October 11

If you missed a past Frontline Call, you can find the archived recordings here: https://lutheransforlife.org/frontline-call-archive/

A Bible Study on Waiting
by Deaconess Amanda Nicks



We've all had to wait. We wait in line at the store. We wait for that special event. We wait for a baby to be born. We wait for the doctor to call with test results. We wait for Christ to return. Years ago, there was an ad for Disney World where a young boy sneaks into his sister's room to ask her what he should expect on their upcoming trip to Disney. The mom finds them and asks them why they are still awake. The boy answers, "We're too excited to sleep!" We have all experienced the excitement and anticipation in waiting for something fun and wonderful to come. We've experienced the anxiety of waiting for something unpleasant. When I think of waiting, I am often reminded that I am not always patient in my waiting.

Waiting isn't always easy. When is waiting difficult for you?

How can we use times of waiting for good?

Are there times when you haven't waited well?

Here is what Martin Luther says about being patient when God delays His help:

> "We should learn to cling to the Word with patience and not let go of it even though the period of waiting for help last a hundred years. For God delays action out of grace, in our best interest, that our faith may become strong and great and He may give more abundantly what He has promised. For it is the nature of God to come slowly but to come without fail" (*What Luther Says*, page 391).

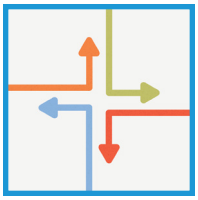
Throughout the Bible, we see people waiting. The Old Testament people were waiting for the Messiah. Mary waited for the birth of Christ. We now wait for His return.

What do we learn about Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, and 11:1-5?

Read Luke 2:22-38. What do Simeon and Anna know about waiting? What can we learn from them?

In what ways does Christ come to us today?

Read Acts 1:6-11. We wait eagerly for Christ's return. What are we called to do while we wait? See Matthew 28:19-20; John 13:34; and 1 Timothy 6:18.



Read Romans 8:18-30. How are these passages helpful when we are struggling with waiting?

The Church year begins with the Season of Advent. It is a time of repentance and waiting. Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming." We spend this time preparing for the coming of Christ at Christmas, and we look forward to His Second Coming. Unfortunately, the Season of Advent can often turn into a time of stress and impatience as people prepare for Christmas.

Do you let the stress of preparing for Christmas affect your time of repentance and waiting during Advent? How can we take this time to prepare for the coming Savior?

"Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" (Psalm 27:14)

2027 Lutherans For Life National Essay Contest



The Lutherans For Life Council of Federation Presidents sponsors an annual national essay contest for students in grades 6-8 and grades 9-12. Any student who attends a Lutheran church or Lutheran school is eligible to submit an essay.

The 2027 National Essay Contest theme this year is **"Be Bold For Life"** and is based on Psalm 31:24: "Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!"

For the national contest, there are eight participating State Federations—Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota—plus Minnesota and Texas. If you are a student in a state without a federation, you can participate through the Non-Federation Essay Contest.

All entries must be submitted by a teacher or pastor and include their contact information. Students in grades 6–8 should submit essays up to 400 words. Students in grades 9–12 should submit essays up to 750 words. The word count does not include the title, footnotes, or bibliography.

The first-place essays in each grade division in each state will be submitted to the national contest. From all the entries, we choose one first place winner each for the 6-8 grade and 9-12 grade divisions and one second place winner for the same categories. For more information on the rules, please visit lutheransforlife.org/2027-lfl-essay-contest.

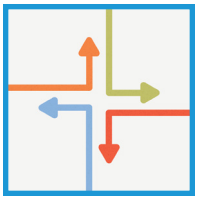
2026 National Essay Contest Winners

Information on the 2026 National award winners may be found here: lutheransforlife.org/article/2026-lfl-national-essay-contest-winners.

Helpful Information on Structural Elements for Writing an Essay

- **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 and flow smoothly.
- **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 clear.

- **Mechanics** – Punctuation, spelling, and capitalization 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.



New for 2027!

As technology evolves, adjustment in rule changes follow. Artificial Intelligence (AI) rules have been established for this year's contest.

Acceptable Uses of AI for Essay Writing

- Students may use AI to support brainstorming, outlining, and grammar.
- Students may use AI to explore creative research support.
- Teachers or parents for those homeschooled remain the primary guides of instruction. AI is a supplement, not a substitute.

Unacceptable Uses of AI for Essay Writing

- Student use of AI to replace original work, such as submitting an AI-generated essay, is unacceptable and will cause disqualification.
- Student use of AI for dishonest purposes, including plagiarism or misrepresentation of effort, will cause disqualification.
- Student use of AI tools that expose the student to unsafe, inappropriate, academically unsound content is unacceptable.

Essay Integrity

- Students must always disclose when AI has been used in research or refining grammar or in-text citation, and if so, AI should be listed as a reference in the bibliography.
- Undisclosed or inappropriate AI use will result in a disqualified essay.

Some information in creating these AI guidelines was developed by Mayer Lutheran Middle and High School with permission granted for usage by Lutherans For Life.

Questions: We look forward to students across the nation participating in our 2027 contest and letting their voices be heard through their life-affirming essays! Please check the rules in your specific state. The rules and rubric information may be found here: lutheransforlife.org/frontlines/state-federation. Questions? Please contact Michele Hartshorn at mhartshorn@lutheransforlife.org.

lutheransforlife.org/2027-lfl-essay-contest

A Joyful Night – The 2026 LFL Fall Gala

The **2026 Lutherans For Life Fall Gala** was held on Friday, September 18, at the Holiday Inn Airport in Des Moines, Iowa, bringing together nearly 80 guests for fellowship, inspiring stories, and celebration. The gathering highlighted the God-given value of every human life and the people who are speaking up For Life.

The **Teaching 4 Life Award** was presented to **Chelsea Adams**, a kindergarten teacher at Mount Olive Lutheran School in Des Moines. Chelsea is helping young children learn to recognize and treasure the gift of life God has given them. Her work is a reminder that teaching the value of life can begin at an early age.

The **Dominus Vitae Award** was presented to Dr. Päivi Maria Räsänen, a physician and member of the Finnish Parliament. Dr. Räsänen shared her personal story of standing publicly for her Christian convictions in Finland and the persecution and years of legal proceedings she has experienced because of her faith. Her testimony reminded guests of the courage it takes to remain faithful to God's Word and the hope we have in Christ.

The night concluded with a message from Rev. Dr. James Lamb, who shared the stories and the history of Lutherans For Life, connecting it all with a memorable message about sheep, the Good Shepherd, and the ministry of LFL. His message brought smiles and pointed everyone back to Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who knows His sheep, laid down His life for them, and faithfully cares for them.

Following the program, a fundraising appeal helped raise money so Lutherans For Life can continue encouraging people to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. More than $18,000 was grossed from our Fall Gala, and we praise God for the generosity that made this possible.



Find additional information, photos, and video at:
lutheransforlife.org/article/2026-lfl-fall-gala-recap-a-joyful-night-for-lutherans-for-life

A Sculpture Celebrating God's Gift of Adoption
by Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske

Several years ago, Lutherans For Life shared the story of Rev. Leon and Terri Rosenthal, who commissioned a sculpture to celebrate God's gift of adoption, and more specifically, the adoption of their two children (lutheransforlife.org/article/our-adoption-sculpture).

The sculpture, which was artfully crafted by another Lutheran pastor, Rev. Adrian Hanft, was designed to portray the blessings of adoption. On one side of this rotating sculpture, one can see the umbilical cord still attached to the baby, symbolizing the child's connection to its biological parents, whom God used to create the life of this child. On the other side, we see the same child now without the cord attached, still safely encased in the love of God, symbolizing the act of adoption, which God uses to care for the lives of many of His beloved children.

In each instance of adoption, we give thanks to God both for the gift of life that has been given and for the parents who chose to affirm that life instead of destroying it through abortion.

As a whole, the sculpture reminds us of the love that God has for each one of us. Not only has He "fearfully and wonderfully" created every person in His image, but He has even more wonderfully redeemed us and adopted us as His children through our Baptisms into Christ's death and resurrection.

I share all of this with you now because last month, a new chapter was added to the story of this sculpture. After prayerful consideration, Rev. and Mrs. Rosenthal, with the help of Rev. Hanft, decided that they wanted to share this beautiful piece of art with the world. Being long-time supporters of Lutherans For Life, they came to the consensus that they would donate the sculpture to us!



So, on Thursday October 1, my wife, Marie, and I, along with several LFL staff members, met Rev. and Mrs. Hanft and Rev. and Mrs. Rosenthal at our Nevada, Iowa, national office to receive the sculpture. With much help, we were able to move the sculpture and its stand into the office, where it is now permanently displayed in front of the main window to be shared with the world.

We are grateful to Rev. and Mrs. Rosenthal for their generosity and to Rev. Hanft for his artistry. Most especially, we are grateful that they continue to be strong Gospel-motivated voices For Life. May God use this precious gift as a lasting testimonial of His love for every person created, redeemed, and called by Him.

Receiving Christ's Gift – Sharing His Hope!



Jesus once said, **"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly"** (John 10:10).

These words form the basis of this year's Lutherans For Life theme, **"That They May Have Life."**

As we approach Advent and Christmas, we remember that Christ came into our world to save us from sin and death, and we look forward to His promised return. Through His Gospel and Sacraments, He gives us life and salvation and calls us to serve our neighbors in His name. Thank you for the faithful ways you uphold the God-given value of human life in your church and community.

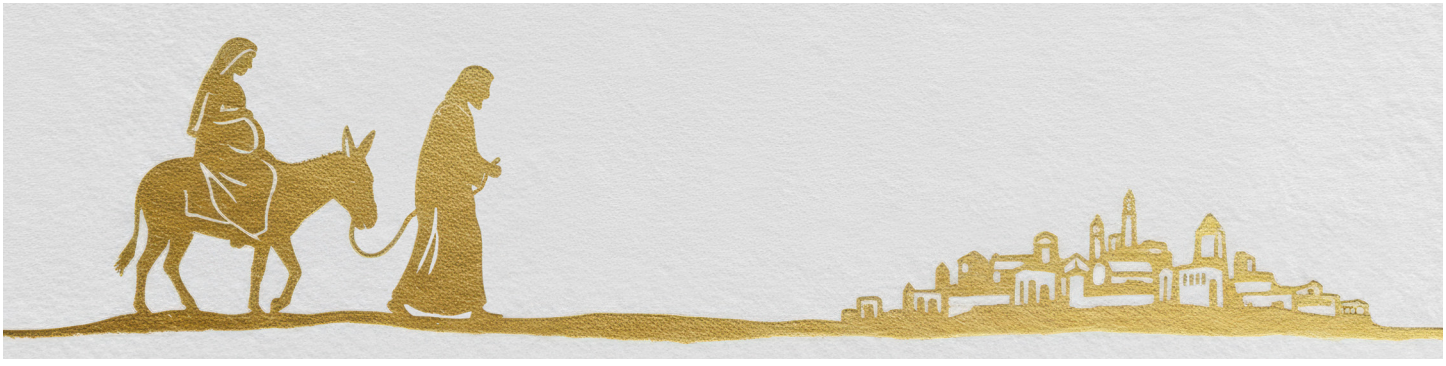
Every day, individuals and families face challenging life circumstances. An unexpected pregnancy, an abortion experience, a disability diagnosis, questions about sexuality and gender, or concerns about the end of life can bring fear and uncertainty. Your conversations, educational events, Bible studies, and acts of service offer opportunities to share God's Word, listen with compassion, and remind others that their lives are precious to Him. Lutherans For Life is grateful to encourage you in this work and help you respond to difficult questions with biblical truth and Christ's love.

As you prepare for Advent and Christmas, prayerfully consider making an end-of-year gift to Lutherans For Life and our Gospel-motivated, life-affirming ministry. Your generosity helps provide the resources and training that strengthen **Word of Hope**, **Y4Life**, and **Volunteer Relations** as they equip others to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. Through your support, more individuals and families can receive compassionate care, biblical guidance, and the assurance of God's promises during life's most difficult moments.

You can make your end of year donation to Lutherans For Life securely online at lutheransforlife.org/donate2026 or by mailing your contribution to:

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

May you rejoice this Advent in the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who came to save us, give us life, and remind us of the God-given value of every human life.



Lutherans For Life of Michigan

This article was submitted by Rev. Paul Clark, President of Lutherans For Life of Michigan.

"This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your promise gives me life" (Psalm 19:50).

Michigan has been blessed with an active State Federation since 1985, standing up for the sacred value of all human life, from fertilization to natural death, witnessing to the gift of eternal life we have through the passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As fallen human beings in a fallen world, we pass through times of trial and affliction, but the Lord's Gospel promise through our Savior, Jesus Christ, gives us life—*life that never ends!* There is forgiveness, renewal, and a living hope that cannot fail, given in the new life Christ bestows upon us through Holy Baptism and His Word.

The Michigan Federation's first president was Millie Gallert, followed by Connie Davis. The current president is Pastor Paul Clark. Our Federation has grown significantly, and we have added several new members to the board. Our current board includes Pastor Paul Clark, President; Lauren Schaidt, Vice-President; Brendan McMahon, Treasurer; Jeannette Meyer, Secretary; Earl Iseler; Pastor Robert Dowding; Nathan Beuschel; Sarah Sills; Lily Seifferlein; Susan Hill; and recently retired board member, Christine Schultz.

In the State of Michigan, where recent political events have produced an intense climate of pro-death legislation, including unfettered access to abortion—and those now pushing for physician-assisted suicide—our work is cut out for us. This is no time for silent apathy, as the culture crumbles away around us. **God's people must take a stand.** Thus, we seek to reach as many pastors, churches, and schools as possible with the Gospel-motivated For Life message, keeping them up to date on the latest developments, encouraging them to engage in the battle for the lives of the unborn, the handicapped, the infirm, and the dying—**every human being created in the image of God**.



Lutherans For Life of Michigan provides a table of free resources at area conferences, including pastors' conferences throughout the state of Michigan.

Over the years, we have been blessed by the gracious support and donations of those within our state who understand this great battle in which we find ourselves. Seeking to be good stewards of those things entrusted to us, we have been able to fund several excellent educational events. We have taken advantage of the opportunity to give chapel presentations at schools, including seeing that they have a set of fetal

models. We sponsor conferences, donate quite generously to many of our pregnancy resource centers, as well as making substantial donations to national Lutherans For Life.

In addition, we have been able to donate to Y4Life, especially for the purpose of helping our young people travel to Washington, D.C., for the March for Life and the Y4Life conference. Keeping the importance of reaching our youth with the life message in mind, we endeavor to incorporate events and speakers here in Michigan that encourage our young people to take a stand and become involved in the work of Lutherans For Life.

One of our most important activities is the annual **Life Summit** that has been planned and carried out for the last several years. Held at the state's central location of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fowler, where President Paul Clark is the Senior Pastor, we have had many excellent speakers over the years, including Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske, Dr. Peter Scaer, Michelle Bauman, Rev. Michael Salemink, Deaconess Chrissie Gillett, Dr. Roni Grad, and several others. The Life Summit is usually held on the last Sunday in April.



Presenters at the 2025 annual Life Summit at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fowler included Michelle Bauman, former director of Y4Life, LFL of Michigan President Rev. Paul Clark, and Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer.

In addition to the Life Summit, other conferences and events are planned, often in the east or west side of the state, offering other opportunities for God's people to come together to be informed and energized to remain strong on life issues.

As a member of the committee for the Michigan March for Life, which is held every two years, Pastor Clark encourages the board in promoting and attending this critical event.

A more recent project is our adoption grant. We seek to use our resources to help defray some of the expense of couples in our Lutheran congregations who pursue the blessed and godly choice of adoption.

Our Federation newsletter, *Lifelines*, is a treasured resource for our pastors, congregations, and supporters. Our Vice-President, Lauren Schaidt, does a fabulous job as the editor for this newsletter, and it has been received very well as a source of information and encouragement, highlighting many of

the local activities around the state as well as keeping people informed about the latest developments on those issues that affect the sanctity of human life.

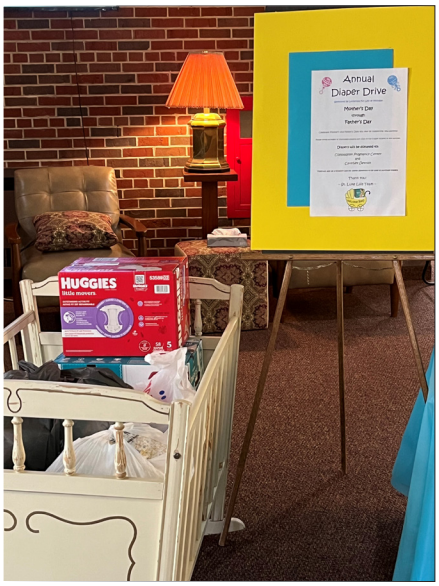
The **Lutherans For Life of Michigan Essay Contest**—both 6th-8th grade level, as well as High School level—is a very important part of our work. We strongly encourage our churches, confirmation students, and schools to participate in this contest. Winners are then submitted to the national contest.



The 2025 annual essay contest contestants from St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fowler: Neelah O'Rourke, Aleena Long, Lydia Klamer, and Christiana Klamer, along with Pastor Paul Clark and Pastor Lance Klamer.

We are truly blessed to be privileged to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in this tremendously important work of defending and proclaiming God's gift of life. It is our greatest prayer that all would come to know the boundless love of our Lord Jesus and receive abundant and everlasting life in His name!

To learn more about Lutherans For Life of Michigan, please contact Pastor Paul Clark at revpmclark@gmail.com.



LFL of Michigan has an annual diaper drive to support local pregnancy resource centers.

Staff Profile: Emma Kettelhake

Emma joined Lutherans For Life (LFL) in July 2026 as the Interim Y4Life Assistant. However, this is not her first time working for LFL. In 2024, she served as the Y4Life Intern. She also served as the President of Bulldogs4Life, the Y4Life team at Concordia University Nebraska, and is currently a member of the Seward Area LFL #041 Life Chapter. These experiences serve her well in her current position with Y4Life.



During her time at Concordia University, Nebraska (CUNE), Emma held positions on the Student Senate for three years, sang in Cantamus, the women's chorus, and was a student diplomat in the Admissions Office. She graduated in May of 2026 with a degree in Business Administration and a concentration in Communications. She also completed the Pre-Deaconess program.

Emma grew up in the small farming community of Unionville, Michigan, where she lived with her parents, Jeremy and Rebecca VanTol, and younger sisters, Claire and Hannah. Claire is a junior at CUNE, and Hannah is a senior at Valley Lutheran High School in Saginaw, Michigan. Emma's parents prioritized being active in the church and made sure their girls received a Christian education. They set an example of what it looked like to be a church worker and a lay member in the body of Christ. They also instilled pro-life values in their family, as they encouraged their girls to interact with and support the younger kids in the congregation, as well as those older than them, also known as their church grandparents. Emma carries this mentality and belief with her to this day.





During Emma's time at CUNE, she met the love of her life, Jason. Jason is a Nebraska native who was also brought up in faith from a young age by his parents, Vern and Joann. Jason was also a faithful member of Bulldogs4Life and attended the March for Life and Y4Life in Washington, D.C., all four years of college. He graduated from CUNE in May 2025, majoring in Business Administration with an Agriculture Science minor. They were married in July 2025 and currently reside in Seward, Nebraska. Together, they love to travel, spend time with friends and family, and cheer on the Nebraska Huskers. They are also the proud aunt and uncle to their niece Lilly, who was born to Jason's sister, Sara, and her husband, Adam, in early February 2025. They are members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Utica, Nebraska.

An Adoption Story
by Patti Smith

"I know all about you."



Every single one of us has a story designed and shaped by God. Today, I want to share with you a story deeply rooted in adoption, brokenness, beautiful redemption, and what I can only describe as a divine orchestration—maybe even a miracle!

When we think about Christianity, we are fundamentally talking about adoption. In Ephesians 1:6, the Apostle Paul reminds us that God **"predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will."** Before I ever understood what adoption meant here on earth, God had already established it as the very mechanism by which we enter His heavenly family. My earthly reality as an adopted child has always been a tangible, living mirror of this profound spiritual truth.

The Earthly Journey of Adoption
Growing up, I always knew I was adopted. My parents made sure I understood that adoption wasn't a backup plan, it was a deliberate and loving choice. My adoptive mom would say, "You did not come from my body, but you came from my heart." That grounding gave me an early glimpse of unconditional love.

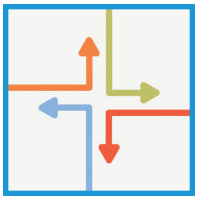
However, as any adoptee will tell you, adoption always begins with great loss. For a child to be placed into an adoptive family, a biological connection must first be severed—often severed completely. Growing up in a Christian home didn't completely erase the natural human questions that began to surface as I grew older. Who do I look like? Whose eyes do I have? Then the bigger question came: Why was I placed for adoption?

Instead of pushing these questions away, my faith compelled me to lean into them. I realized that my desire to know my earthly origins wasn't a rejection of my adoptive parents, who I will always love dearly. It was a reflection of God. Our God values identity and family lines. God cares about where we come from, and He cares about where we spend eternity.

The Search
When I finally became serious about locating my birth mother, I was in my thirties. I approached my adoptive mom for help. In a beautiful display of unconditional love, she didn't hesitate to say yes. She said she would help me with whatever means she could. Together, we sat down and we looked over my adoption legal papers. As I read through them searching for clues, I spotted a single last name. My mom then shared a vital piece of the puzzle. She knew that my biological mother was originally from Minnesota and lived in California at the time of my birth. I was born in Santa Monica Hospital.

I had my birth certificate, but it was what is called an "Amended Birth Certificate." It named my adoptive parents as mother and father, and it had the name that I was given upon adoption. The original birth certificate that had the actual names of my birth mother and birth father, along with my name given at birth, is filed with the State of California. It is permanently sealed by the court. No one can obtain a copy of it without a court order with just cause.

Now, I want you to picture the landscape of the year 1992. This was long before the internet, before search engines, and before commercially available DNA testing. Finding one person across the country with just a last name and a state was like looking for a needle in a haystack. But long before I ever picked up a phone, prayer preceded this journey. I laid it at the feet of the Lord.



With nothing but faith, I called 411 directory service, and I asked for the phone number of anyone with the last name listed on my adoption papers. The operator gave me just four listings matching that last name. Taking a deep breath and another prayer for courage, I dialed the very first number on the list. A man answered, and with a racing heart, I gave him the short version of my adoption story. I braced myself because I really thought he would think I was a prank caller and would hang up. Instead, there was a long pause. And then he said the words I will never forget: **"I know all about you."**

The Miracle Unfolds

As it turned out, I hadn't just reached a stranger; I had reached my birth mother's first cousin. He explained that knowing my birth mother was single and pregnant without any means of support, he planned to adopt me into his own family. However, when that fell through, I was adopted by a couple in California. He said he was so glad I called and that he would contact my birth mother right away. Right away? This easily? To me, THIS was my miracle!



Just 24 hours later, the phone rang, and it was the call I had spent a lifetime waiting for. My birth mother was on the other end of the line! In that sacred moment, we talked, we cried, and we shared the overwhelming joy of finding each other. She told me she had never forgotten me, and she had been praying that I would somehow find her.

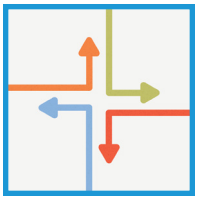
She wanted to meet in person, so I invited her to my home in Huntington Beach, California, where she spent several days with me. I had so many questions, as did she. We remained close friends until she passed away just a year later. Looking back, I see God's incredible timing. He opened that door precisely when He did, giving us that precious year together before He called her home.

Through her, I also discovered that I have a younger half-sister and half-brother. The very next month, I flew up to Washington to meet them. I stayed for a few days at my birth mother's home. While family dynamics can be complex, my appearing on the scene was quite a shock. My birth mother had kept me a secret from my younger half-brother and half-sister. Although my half-sister was not pleased to meet me, my half-brother completely embraced me, and to this day, he calls me his big sister.

The Gospel Parallel

When I look at the precision of how that phone call connected, I see what I like to call a divine orchestration. For an adoptee, searching for a birth family takes investigation, intent, pursuit, and a

willingness to face rejection. Isn't that what Jesus did for us? He left the ninety-nine to pursue the one. He sought us out when we were lost and disconnected from our true Father, and He brought us home. We are each adopted with full inheritance.



Echoing the Sanctity of Life via Lutherans For Life

My story only exists because someone chose life for her baby. My biological mother, facing incredibly difficult and uncertain circumstances, made the brave, sacrificial decision to carry me to term and place me in a home where I could thrive. She chose life over convenience and protection over termination.

This brings me to the vital message of the sanctity of human life. We live in a culture that often views an unplanned pregnancy as a crisis to be solved through elimination. But a crisis pregnancy is an opportunity for the Church to display the radical, supportive love of Jesus Christ.

This is exactly why I am so deeply passionate about the work of Lutherans For Life. This incredible organization doesn't just speak about the right to life, as they are not a political group and believe that abortion is not about politics, but about life and death. Lutherans For Life actively embodies the Gospel of Life. They witness to the sacred value of every human being, from conception to natural death. Lutherans For Life anchors its mission in the truth that every single person is created by God, redeemed by Christ, and called into a relationship with Him. LFL champions adoption as a life-affirming alternative to abortion.

Supporting organizations like Lutherans For Life is how we equip the body of Christ to be the hands and feet of Jesus to vulnerable women and unborn children. It is how we ensure that more children can grow up, experience their own divine orchestrations, and discover their God-given destiny, just as I have been blessed to do by sharing my journey with you.

I want to leave you with one final thought. Whether you were adopted into an earthly family or not, if you have placed your trust in Jesus Christ, you ARE AN ADOPTED CHILD OF GOD. You are not an accident. Your days are numbered by Him, your steps are ordered by Him, and your identity in Him is secure forever.

Biography

Patti Smith was born in 1955 to Dorothy Longhenry and was adopted in 1955 by Edward and Frieda O'Haggarty. She is a native of southern California, residing in Huntington Beach with her husband, Ronald. She has three children: Jeremy, Jeffrey, and Amanda. She is also grandmother to Bella, Zach, and Emma.

Prior to retiring in 2012, Patti was a professional employment recruiter. Since retiring, she has been an active volunteer for Lutherans For Life and is a Life Team Leader. Patti is a church musician as well as a pro-life sidewalk counselor with 40 Days for Life. She also serves with a prison ministry, Kairos Outside. As a member of Savethe1, a support group for the rape conceived, Patti tells her adoption story and her journey of self-discovery.

In 2019 Patti was the recipient of the Olive Meehan Life Award in "honor of outstanding dedication to all human life born and unborn."

She is available to speak for conferences, seminars, college groups, women's groups, and Life Sunday observances. Patti can be contacted at 714.552.8078 or pattismith55@yahoo.com.

Sisters, Rivals, and the God Who Sees: A Ladies' Bible Study on Leah and Rachel

Have you ever felt invisible, overlooked, or second-best? Have you ever wanted something so badly you were sure you couldn't live without it? If so, you have more in common with two sisters from the book of Genesis than you might think.

Join us Friday mornings at 8:30 a.m. CT/9:30 ET for a Ladies' Bible Study on Zoom, led by Deaconess Janet Nicol of Word of Hope, a ministry of Lutherans For Life.

This study began September 11 and runs through May 21, 2027, but it's never too late to join us! Together we're spending time with Leah and Rachel, sisters who ended up married to the same man, and discovering how their tangled, very human stories point us to a faithful God.

Leah was the older sister, the "weak-eyed" one, slipped into Jacob's tent through her father's deception. Scripture says plainly that she was hated. Yet it also says the LORD saw her. We'll look at the Hebrew behind those words and trace how Leah's longing for her husband's love shows up in the names she gave her sons, from Reuben ("see, a son") to Judah ("praise"). Martin Luther marveled that God chose this overlooked woman, not her beautiful sister, to carry the royal line from which Christ would come.

Rachel was the beloved one, the shepherdess Jacob worked fourteen years to marry. She had what Leah wanted, and Leah had what Rachel wanted. "Give me children, or I shall die!" she cried. We'll explore what happens when good gifts become ultimate things, why a sister would trade a night with her husband for a handful of mandrakes, and what it means that God "remembered" Rachel, not only when He gave her Joseph, but centuries later through the prophet Jeremiah and the Gospel of Matthew.

"We are deeply loved children of God. Yet I share her struggle to be content with the gifts God has already given me. I want more." — Deaconess Janet Nicol

We'll also take a closer look at the two men who shaped these women's lives. Laban, their father, was a schemer whose deceit left lasting scars on his family. Jacob, their husband, was a deceiver himself, now on the receiving end, and his favoritism set the stage for heartache for generations.

Along the way we'll talk honestly about envy, bargaining, family dysfunction, and the "respectable idols" Christian women still wrestle with today. Most of all, we'll see the Lord who sees the lowly, remembers His own, and gives us our true identity in Christ.

Each session includes Scripture reading, discussion questions, and a few Hebrew word studies. No background knowledge is required, just curiosity and a willingness to share.

It's okay if you can't make it every week! Come when you can. We simply have a fun time with everyone there, discussing these two fascinating women and the impact their stories have on us.

To participate, email janet@word-of-hope.org to receive the materials and the Zoom link. We'd love to see you there!

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."**



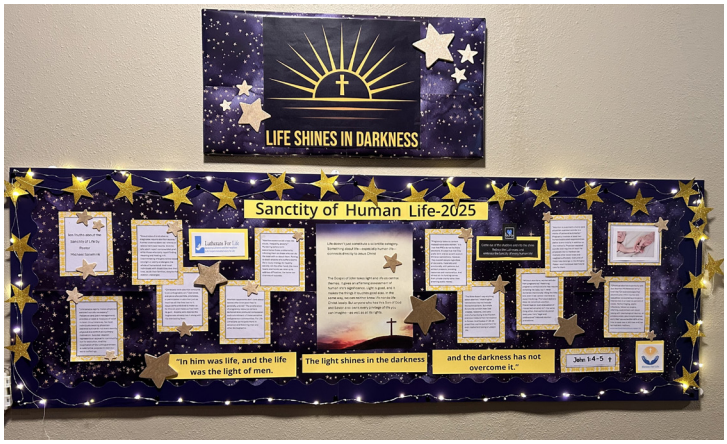
Jesus is the Good Shepherd who laid down His own life and took it up again to give life to His sheep. By reconciling sinners to God through His blood, Jesus gives more than everlasting life; He gives everlasting life in communion with God. Life in communion with God is the truly abundant life, in which 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 are each gifted a baptism ornament. Another group presents a rose to the families who had a baby baptized the previous year.

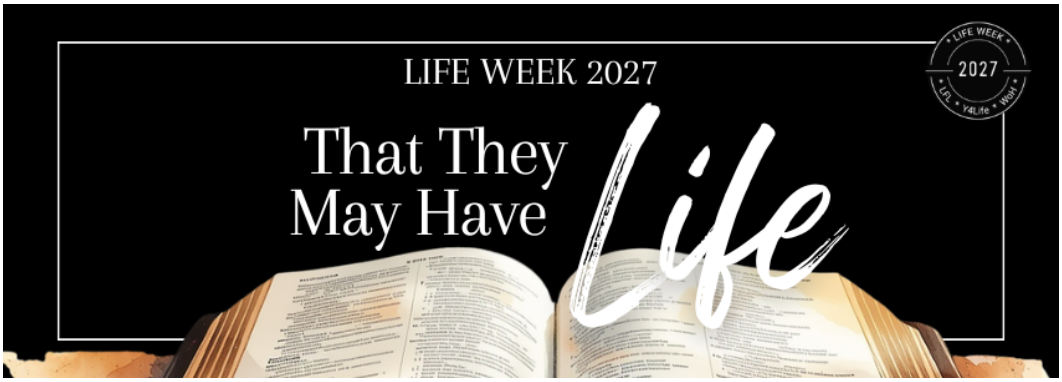


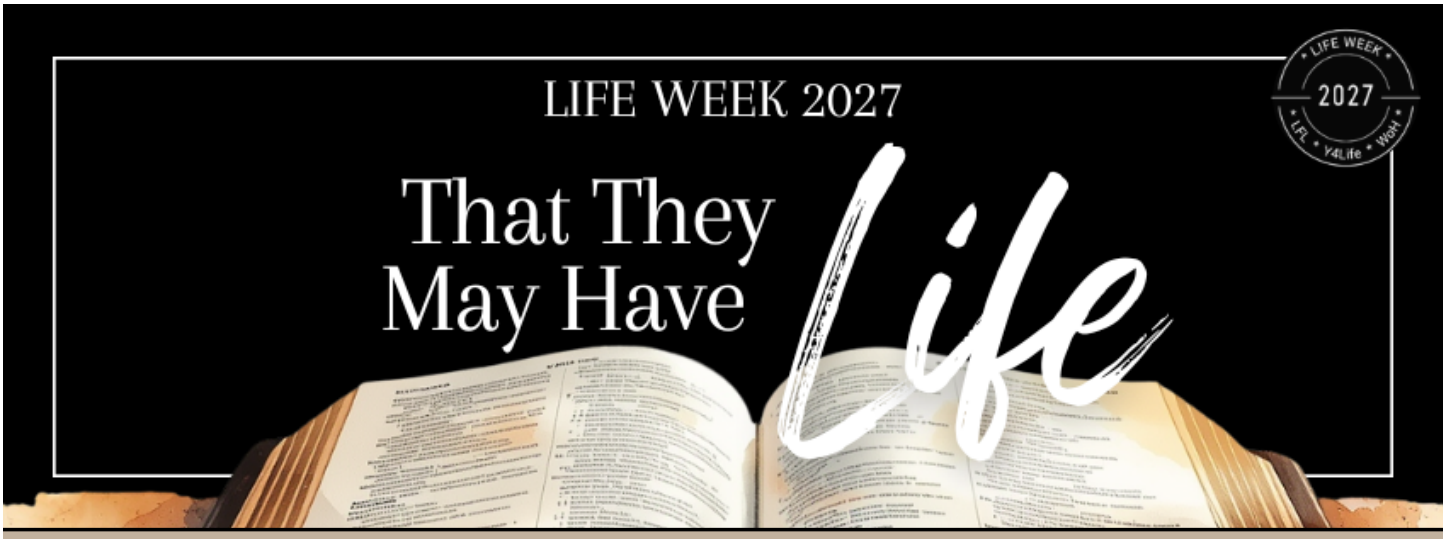


Life Week 2027

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!





Sunday, January 17, 2027
That They May Have Life ... by Design
Life Topic: Marriage & Family
Speakers: Rev. Dr. Lukas Woodford &
Rev. Stephen Prues
Pre-recorded for flexible use.

Monday, January 18, 2027
That They May Have Life ... in the Flesh
Life Topic: The Sacredness of the Body
Speakers: Rev. Dr. Rick Marrs &
Rev. Dr. John Kleinig
Pre-recorded for flexible use.

Tuesday, January 19, 2027
That They May Have Life ... through Fellowship
Life Topic: Longing for Relationship
Speakers: Rev. James Neuendorf &
Deac. Pam Nielsen
Pre-recorded for flexible use.

Wednesday, January 20, 2027
That They May Have Life ... while Serving
Life Topic: Compassion for Neighbor
Speakers: Gene Ernst &
Deac. Jamielynn Flores
Pre-recorded for flexible use.

Thursday, January 21, 2027
That They May Have Life ... in Times of Trial
Life Topic: Enduring Trials
Speakers: 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
Speakers: Rev. Dr. Al Espinosa &
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
Speakers: Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison &
Rev. Brady Finnern
Session live in Washington, D.C.

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

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



Y4LIFE

Y4LIFE seeks to equip high-school- and college-aged youth 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!









Visit our website:
y4life.org

Find us on Instagram:
@lfly4life



YA For LIFE



YA For Life seeks to equip young adults in their 20s and 30s to be Gospel-motivated voices for LIFE! Through service, celebration, worship, and education, young adults are encouraged to engage in life-affirming activities and become advocates for LIFE in their families, churches, communities, and world. In this way, their life-affirming work ripples into the future — not only changing lives today, but also for eternity.



Visit our website
WWW.YAFORLIFE.ORG

Find us on Facebook
LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Find us on Instagram
@LFLYAFORLIFE

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).





THREE WAYS TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!

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

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

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

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

lutheransforlife.org/volunteer-relations/

...from fertilization to forever



CONDUCT YOUR OWN LIFE EVENT

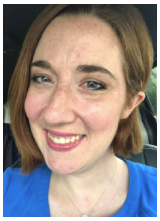
The Frontline Playbook gives you guidance, ideas, and resources!

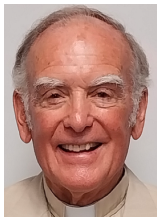
Video Presentations
Topical Devotions
Life Topic Facts
Supportive Activities

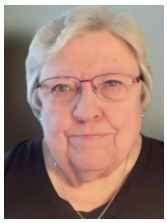
Follow the link and click on FRONTLINE PLAYBOOK RESOURCES – Hopeful
lutheransforlife.org/frontlineplaybook/

It's FREE and available NOW!

Life Topics in Hopeful

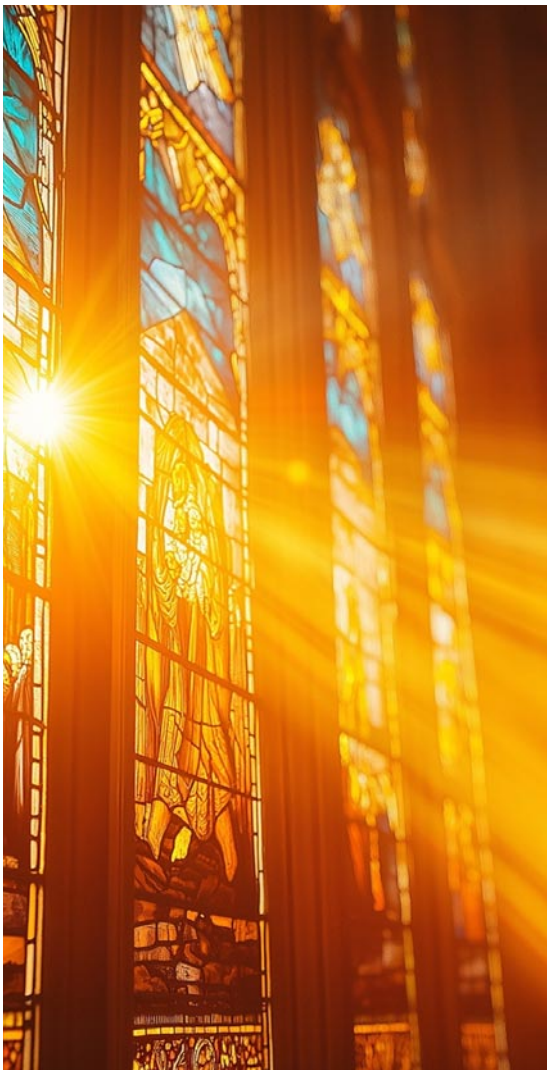

Deaconess Rachel Geraci
"Just As...I Am Surviving and Thriving"


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.

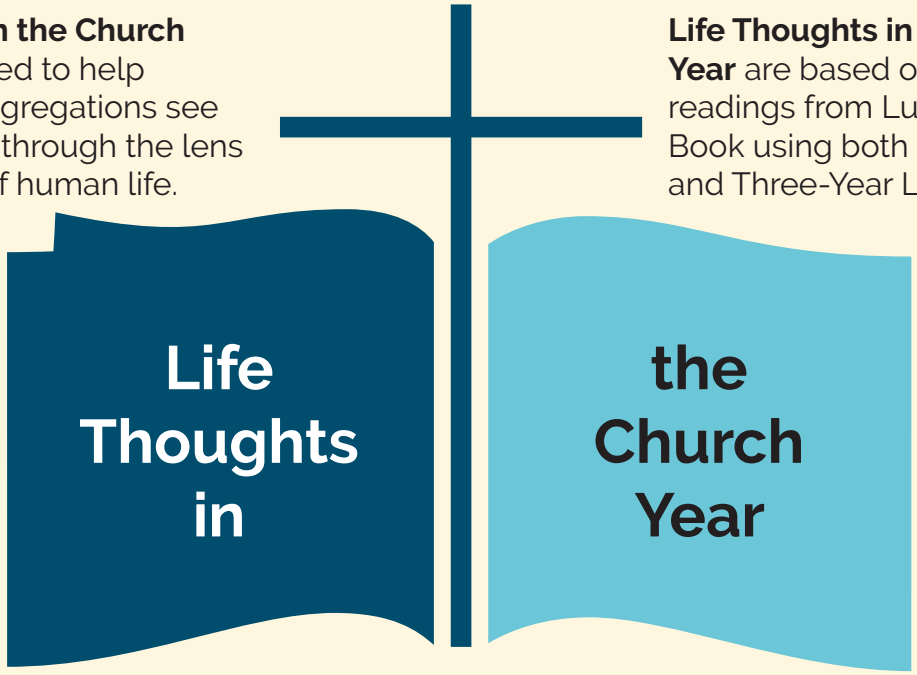
The quotes are dated but could generally be used any time.

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



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
Volunteer Relations

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 • 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.
- ***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.
- ***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.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Available in App Stores



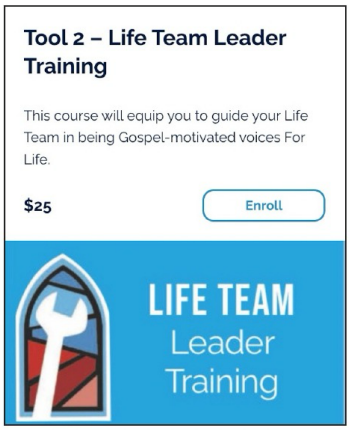
INTERESTED IN STARTING A LIFE TEAM AT YOUR CHURCH?

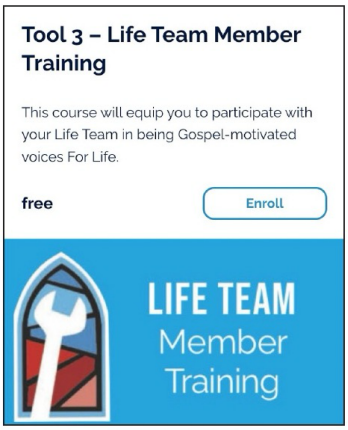
It just got easier, making it possible for you to be a trusted, certified Life Team Leader or Life Team Member!

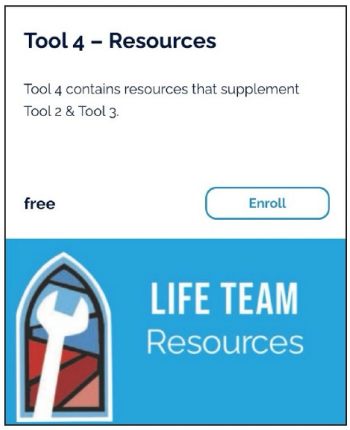
Here are the simple steps:

- **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!**







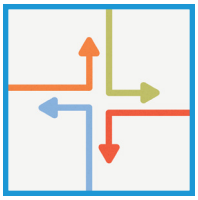


Register at:
volunteersacademy.lutheransforlife.org

Questions? Contact Volunteer Relations:
lutheransforlife.org/volunteer-relations/

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

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

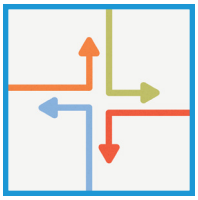
Sponsor Memberships:
- 1/12 goes to the local Life Chapter (If there is no local Life Chapter, this 1/12 goes to the State Federation.)
- 1/12 goes to the State Federation
- 10/12 remains at national

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-abortions-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973

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SAVE THE DATE!

2027 Lutherans For Life National Conference | July 22-23

Immanuel Lutheran Church • St. Charles, Missouri

2027 Lutherans For Life Summer Gala | July 22

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Check out the Store page on the Lutherans For Life website for great resources: lutheransforlife.org/resources/store

