

LIFEDATE



Fall 2023
from
LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

How to Use Your Gospel- Motivated Voice For Life



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**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life!

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Our Visual Voice For Life

by Pastor Michael Salemink



Lutherans For Life is celebrating our forty-fifth anniversary with a new logo!

Maybe a picture's worth a thousand words. But a single image can't say everything about our sanctity of life community and ministry. Still, it can say something important.

Our previous logo has served well. Many recognize the blue "L" wrapped around a descending dove: **"It is the Spirit who gives life ... the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life"** (John 6:63). This graphic faithfully communicated grace and peace. Now that *Roe v Wade* has gone away, the decades-old emblem has earned its retirement, too. An era of print information gave it birth, and we have since entered the digital age.

The updated Lutherans For Life insignia keeps the sky-blue legacy coloring. It evokes the joy and hope of our sacred vocation to receive life as gift and privilege, no matter what age, appearance, or ability. At the center, of course, stands the cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Every human life has purpose because this God creates, redeems, and calls (Isaiah 43:1-2) each one as His own precious treasure from fertilization to forever.

Like the roots and limbs of a tree, the cross branches out into an EKG tracing. Its linear symbol for heartbeat and lifeblood (Leviticus 17:14) connects the whole course from the embryo in the mother's belly to the final breath the Father bestows. More than simply surprise pregnancies or terminal diagnoses, the sanctity of human life intersects a spectrum of issues and situations – anywhere deception pressures neighbors to view death as a solution to difficulty.

The horizon behind (or is it ahead?) takes the shape of a heart. This background indicates the courage and compassion of our Gospel-motivated message and mission. We speak God's truth and show Christ's love. A contemporary typeface shares our organization's identity (simplified and stabilized without serifs, so that it reads clearer for persons with visual impairments and on the condensed scales of mobile devices).

We've put a lot of reflection and effort into this little icon. It reminds us of how the Almighty Maker invests human beings with so much worth and purpose of His own. We eagerly welcome the new opportunities and continuing responsibilities it will encounter. And we hope it sparks the same impressions for you and everybody we reach and serve—equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life!



Lessons from Navel Gazing

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb



Using your Gospel-Motivated Voice and Actions in the Presence of Evil

On a recent “Footsteps of Paul” tour, our group went to Delphi, the center of the world, at least according to the Greek god Zeus. To find this center point, mythology tells us Zeus released two eagles simultaneously which flew in opposite directions around the earth. Where their paths crossed would be the center of the world and the source of all life. Delphi is from the Greek word *delphys*, meaning womb.

To mark the spot, Zeus dropped a giant stone, the Omphalos Stone. This giant stone found at Delphi, which now is in a museum, undoubtedly gave rise to the mythology associated with it. You know “omphalos” because you know its English counterpart, “umbilicus,” meaning navel. The navel is the center of the body and, through the umbilical cord, the source of life sustaining goodies from mom. Delphi became the navel of the world. Zeus established an oracle there, a priestess who could answer questions and predict your future—for a price! A giant python was dispatched to guard the oracle.

Enter the god Apollo. He thought the center of the world would be a fit place for a god to hang out. Plus, the beautiful priestess oracle would undoubtedly make a fine wife. But first he must deal with the python, which he did in an epic god vs. python battle. Victorious, Apollo claimed the oracle as bride. Because of this heroic feat, he became known as “Pythian Apollo.” The oracles became known as “Pythia.”

Many gazed upon the “navel” of Delphi looking for wisdom from the oracle. We do not. Our center, our source of life, is Jesus. **“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him ... And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent”** (Colossians 1:16, 18).



Omphalos Stone

Temple of Apollo

The Oracle worked out of this room beneath the temple.

We gaze on Jesus. We need Him as our center as we confront evil, as evil confronts us. We do not know if Paul ever went to Delphi. We do know he was confronted by its evil.

“As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and us, crying out, ‘These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.’ And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, ‘I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.’ And it came out that very hour” (Acts 16:16-18).

“Spirit of divination” in the Greek is spirit of pythia! The evil centered in Delphi possessed this girl. Maybe she was once an apprentice oracle. What she said sounded good. She told people exactly what Paul and Silas were proclaiming. But, as the saying goes, “Not all that glitters is gold.” The source was pure evil, and Paul had enough.

We live in the presence of evil. Some of it is twisted to sound good. We hear of “the compassionate relief of suffering” or “death with dignity” or “right to health care” or “simple medical procedure.” You know many more. God calls us to confront these with His truth, to reveal the evil behind them. God call us to educate fellow Christians in His truth so they do not end up “possessed” by this way of thinking. God calls us to call evil what it is, but also to share the truth of what God has done about evil.

For that we fix our gaze upon Jesus (Hebrews 12:2). He speaks to us through His Word of truth and grace. Gazing upon His cross, He assures us of His love, the defeat of the devil, sins atoned for, forgiveness. Gazing upon His empty tomb, He assures us of new life here and hereafter in resurrection perfection. Gazing upward, He assures us He is at the right hand of God and in control of and at work in all things. Gaze on the “navel,” (center) Jesus and raise your Gospel-motivated voices, speaking His truth in love. Gaze upon Jesus and engage in Gospel-motivated action, demonstrating His truth in compassionate care for your neighbor in need. How?

- **Join or start a Life Team or Life Chapter or become a Life Advocate**
- **Support and/or volunteer at a local pregnancy resource center**
- **Advertise your pregnancy resource center and LFL’s Word of Hope in your congregation**
- **Support Lutherans For Life**
- **Visit members living alone or in care centers**
- **Have Lutherans For Life speakers come to your area or sponsor a Y4Life event**
- **Pray for all the above!**

A Year since *Dobbs*

by Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life



We've just passed the one-year anniversary of the *Dobbs* decision which overturned *Roe* and sent the abortion debate back to the states. *Dobbs* was certainly great news, but we haven't yet reached our end goal—making abortion unthinkable.

**Open your mouth for the mute,
for the rights of all who are destitute.
Open your mouth, judge righteously,
defend the rights of the poor and needy.**

Proverbs 31: 8-9

Notice in those two verses God asks us twice to open our mouths for those who cannot speak for themselves. But we cannot just open our mouths. We need to be prepared to speak the truth in love, to give facts and fight misinformation and outright lies from the other side. Check the status of abortion in your state. Make sure you aren't taken in by false narratives. Most prolife politics have shifted to the states. Pro-abortion groups are throwing tons of money at ballot initiatives. *Think Michigan and Kansas.*

What happens when you do a search for “crisis pregnancy centers”? The first thing that often appears is from American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecologists (ACOG), which begins with a good explanation of what the center does. However, the article goes on to warn against CPC facilities. Why? The article reiterates that CPCs claim that they are legitimate health care clinics for “pregnant people,” but in reality they are trying to prevent abortion with their antiabortion agenda, use “misleading” practices by CPC staff, and spread misinformation about “so-called abortion ‘reversal.’”

Many of you work with a CPC. We know what they do to help *women* who are pregnant, their babies, and their partners as well. Most of these centers operate based on Christian principles. The CPCs, and we in Lutherans For Life, know that these women need the love of Christ. *And we know most believe it is wrong to kill their baby.*

This spring at the March to the Arch in St. Louis, there were opponents with megaphones trying to disrupt the march. They screamed slogans the entire way, not listening to any counterarguments. My friend observed, “They don't have anything to back up their beliefs, so they just shout louder.”

We have the grace and truth of the Gospel to share—not only with women and men in crisis pregnancies but with those so adamantly advocating for abortion. Why would we *not* share Christ with a lost and hurting people? LFL has a lot of information available to you on the website and through brochures and tracts. Check it out!

“Truly at this evil, shameful time, it is not time for loafing, snoring, or sleeping. Use your gift, which has been entrusted to you, and reveal the mystery of Christ.”

Martin Luther (Luther's Works 60: 285)

Step Up 4 Life



Top Ten Blessings of Step Up 4 Life 2023!

10. The team that created the Lutherans For Life Step Up 4 Life 2023 campaign consisted of Michelle Bauman (Y4Life), Rev. Jeff Duncan (Volunteer Relations), Jerilyn Richard (Donor Relations), and David Probst (Development).
9. In February, **28** Lutherans For Life ministry partners contributed **over \$25,000** to our Step Up 4 Life 2023 campaign before registration opened or steps were taken.
8. As of June 30, 2023, we received **417 Step Up 4 Life donations** from **400 donors** (which includes offerings, walking registrations, and sponsorship gifts) and a total of **\$93,543** for LFL.
7. Step Up 4 Life 2023 received donations from ministry partners in **37 States** including AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, LA, MD, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, SD, TN, TX, WA, WI, WV, and WY.
6. The three states which provided the most donations to our Step Up 4 Life 2023 campaign were **Illinois – 36 donations, Missouri – 40 donations, and Indiana – 60 donations**. Go Hoosiers!
5. Step Up 4 Life 2023 had **nine teams** and **46 individuals** participate in our team challenge.
4. Step Up 4 Life 2023 had **58 walking participants** and **95 walker sponsorship donations**. According to our responding walkers, **over 5,856,615** steps were taken **FOR LIFE**.
3. There were **328 donations** and **\$27,805** given to Step Up 4 Life in 2021, **519 donations** and **\$68,251** given in 2022, and **417 donations** and **\$93,543** given so far in 2023.
2. Step Up 4 Life 2023 received **384 gifts** in the \$1- \$499 range, **16 gifts** in the \$500 - \$999 range, **14 gifts** in the \$1,000 - \$4,999 range, and **three gifts** in the \$5,000 and higher range.
1. God continues to richly bless Lutherans For Life through its ministry partners who impact and assist us with equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices for Life. **TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**



Y4Life is so excited to welcome an intern to our LFL family this summer, and we thought you might like to get to know her, too! Check out her answers to our interview questions below!

Can you tell us a little about your family and where you grew up?

Kate: I was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, when my dad was at seminary, but we moved to Tennessee when I was two! My family currently lives in Maryville, right outside of Knoxville. We are blessed to live near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and we spend lots of time there swimming and hiking. I am the oldest of three, and we recently adopted my youngest brother out of foster care.

What degree are you working toward in college?

Kate: I am currently attending Concordia University Wisconsin earning my degree in General Business with a minor in Christian Thought. The business program is super flexible, so I am focusing on a lot of non-profit management classes.

What led you to want to work for Y4Life?

Kate: I've been involved in the pro-life movement for the past five years, and my future career goals involve working for a pro-life nonprofit! I had the opportunity to help Michelle with the Y4Life conference in DC in January and really enjoyed it. The Y4Life internship was the perfect opportunity for me to work for an organization that aligns with my passions and beliefs and see the inner workings of a nonprofit organization. Attending public school growing up, I got a lot of push-back for being vocal about my pro-life beliefs. I love that Y4Life encourages students across the country to become more educated about life issues, connect with one another, and help strengthen their ability to be vocal about issues from a Gospel-motivated perspective.

What areas of life ministry are you most passionate about?

Kate: I am most passionate about abortion, foster care, and adoption. Those three are the most personal to me, but I recognize how interconnected all life issues are. The more our society disregards the value of human life, the more problems we have in all areas. I also am very passionate about crisis pregnancy help and have had the privilege to do a lot of volunteering at my local pregnancy resource center.

Have you always had a passion for upholding life, or was there a specific instance that led you to be a Gospel-motivated voice For Life?

Kate: I always was interested in life issues and grew up going to the local March for Life and different Right to Life events. My freshman year of high school, my biology teacher asked us to give speeches for or against embryonic stem cell research. I was one of two in my class of thirty who upheld the sanctity of life and was mocked mercilessly for it. That moment was really eye-opening for me, realizing how many people around me didn't have the same beliefs I did. It was after that when I started becoming very vocal about my beliefs and dived into a lot of research about life issues and got started in the pro-life movement.

Not everyone agrees that human life is sacred. How do you handle opposition to this truth when you encounter it, especially among your peers?

Kate: The first thing I try to do is pause for a moment and pray for whomever I am interacting with, especially when we are disagreeing, as well as pray that the Holy Spirit guides my words in a way that makes them clear and also God-honoring. One of my favorite verses is Proverbs 28:1, **“The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.”** Being bold in your convictions but treating the person you are interacting with as a precious child of God is the best thing to do. I try to stay updated on my knowledge of life issues and be prepared for opposition, but it’s okay to not have the answers to every question. It is frustrating, and even hurtful, when disagreeing with peers, but resting in the knowledge that God may be using you as a vessel in these hard conversations and that, ultimately, He is in control, granting us a peace that the world cannot give, is the best comfort after hard interactions.

Okay, now it’s time for some favorites. What is your favorite ...

Bible verse?

Kate: Joshua 1:9

Hobby?

Kate: Reading, hiking, baking, and going to concerts

Food?

Kate: Chicken fried rice with orange chicken.

Podcast?

Kate: It really depends on my mood, but my current favorite is SHE with Jordan Lee Dooley, which talks a lot about faith, health, business, adoption/ foster care, and clean living.

Influencer?

Kate: Allie Beth Stuckey! I love her passion, clarity, research, and scriptural references when conveying her opinions.

Music?

Kate: The Avett Brothers are my all-time favorite band, but I love anything Americana or country.

Television series?

Kate: *The Office* or *New Girl!*



(l-r) Kate Roberts, Michelle Bauman, Cori Meier, Claire Rae Meier at the 2023 LWML National Convention in Milwaukee.

The Word Works

by Pastor Michael Salemink



The Word of the Lord works. Sometimes the outcomes get intense. Late last month two sanctity-of-life advocates ended up injured. Gentlemen aged 80 and 73 were sidewalk counseling outside a Baltimore facility. An unidentified suspect escalated an energetic conversation by tackling the older fellow. When the other demonstrator came to his aid, the suspect also pushed him to the ground. He then struck the second victim lying on his back with a closed fist to the face and kicked his head so hard he fractured his skull. Witnesses and video confirmed the incident, and police are still searching for the perpetrator. Local Right to Life identified the wounded as longtime beloved volunteers who regularly prayed there “to let the scared young abortion-minded women know that they are loved, that their baby is loved.” Even the facility itself issued a statement condemning the violence.

Such pro-abortion crimes multiplied dramatically in 2022. Since the January leak of a draft opinion in the Supreme Court’s *Dobbs* case, hundreds of attacks have taken place. Pregnancy centers and churches have suffered vandalism and firebombing. Memorial spaces for unborn babies have been defaced. Student groups have endured thefts, harassment, attacks, and even death threats on campuses. Life-affirming activists have been shoved, punched, spit on, bitten, and shot. It has happened across the country and around the world. Authorities have investigated only a handful and apprehended even fewer. (Meanwhile, armed federal agents stormed the front door of one Gospel-motivated voice and aggressively arrested him in front of his children, only for a court hearing to later clear him of all charges.)

Pro-life individuals have committed similar hostilities in the past. Occasionally, isolated instances of hatefulness happen on this side as well. We have vehemently and repeatedly denounced those offenses for decades and continue to do so. Animosity, provocation, physical force, and bodily injury go against what the sanctity of life represents. These measures come much more naturally to abortion ideology and rhetoric, which views and uses pressure and death as solutions to difficulty. It has anger in its very nature and fear for its native language.

Our movement is not just a hobby. Our message is no mere joke. Our ministry is more than a game.

“Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?” (Jeremiah 23:29).

God’s truth puts to death in condemnation and repentance and brings to life with forgiveness, hope, and joy. Both of these it does even out of our mouths. We expect opposition and persecution. Jesus Himself has promised us:

“If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you” (John 15:19). And of course, “... we do not wrestle against flesh and blood” (Ephesians 6:12), because “the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!” (Revelation 12:12).

But we remember our counterparts as people. And we receive even antagonists as neighbors. We do not regard their sinfulness as any worse than our own. We rejoice that our Heavenly Father creates, redeems, and calls them precious the same as He does each of us. He forgives and loves and labors to save them. We don't have to prove ourselves right or shut others up. We don't make it our mission to control their behavior but rather to welcome everyone as sister or brother with whom we may celebrate all the blessings God promises to those who trust in His Son.

So remain mindful of how even supporters of abortion have hurts and worries. Assume they operate from wounds, not cruelty. Believe that they do not know rather than that they do not care. Balance relentless with gentle, season persistence with patience, and couple courage with compassion. Build bridges and open ongoing relationships with a person and not only an opinion. Ask genuine questions about their experiences. Listen to their concerns and needs. Identify and affirm common ground. Share sympathy for surprise pregnancy's adversities. Lament poverty, disability, inequality, isolation, abuse. Oppose and apologize for the ways in which both church and culture have ignored or exploited crises. Confront all iniquities and idols and confess your own along with the others.

We need not feel insecure. Almighty God has enlisted and positioned us as His instruments for such a time as this. He retains responsibility for all the results, accepting what is His own and absolving what is ours. His Word indeed will not fail either to diagnose or remedy, reveal or relieve. And should we have sorrow or loss in the process, we charge that also to our Savior's account. Let us give thanks for the honor of undergoing affliction alongside Jesus Christ, recognized by both God and men as bearing His sacred name with all the inheritances pertaining to it. His resurrected abundance will more than make up for anything we are deprived of, and the everlasting outcomes will far exceed the temporary costs.



A Voice for Vincent—One of God's Children

by Thomas J. Wilson

April 27, 2022, was a day that we will remember for the rest of our lives. We had been struggling for years to get pregnant, and eventually decided we should open our home to adoption. After a three-and-a-half-year wait, God answered our prayers. On April 26, 2022, we received an email from Lutheran Family Service (LFS) that there was a baby boy named Ashton needing a loving, caring family. Along with the email was a picture of this precious child. We were hooked. The next day we had an interview with LFS, and within a few hours, they called to notify us that we were chosen to be the parents of that little boy!

We knew going into the adoption of Ashton, soon to be Vincent Allen, that he had many medical issues and would need extra care, love, and lots of patience. Ashton was born premature, suffered respiratory distress immediately at birth, and was rushed to the University of Iowa Children's Hospital. He was also diagnosed early on with Dandy Walker Malformation. He spent his first two months in the hospital's pediatric intensive care unit before LFS was contacted and another month before he was officially discharged and placed with us to come home.

It was during the month that we first met him that we knew there was something special about this little boy. We also found out very early that we would have to be a strong voice for him. We were just starting to learn about Dandy Walker and the needs of his feeding tube and medications. We were barely there enough to hold him before we heard a doctor ask why we were wanting to adopt Ashton, pointing out that his quality of life would be very low. But our faith was strong, and we knew God had a plan for us and for Ashton. We did not let this doctor discourage us. We listened and then we spoke with others. Ashton may have been born with medical needs and development issues, but he is still a child of God.

That has been our motto throughout this process. Ashton/Vincent is a child of God. He was chosen for us, we were chosen for him. God's plan was for us to be a family, and we will be his voice to fight for his health obstacles and get him what he needs. Finally on February 1, 2023, Ashton's adoption was finalized, and he officially became Vincent Allen Wilson, son of Thomas and Lisa Wilson.



Over the span of 11 months—from August 2022 to June 2023—Vincent has been hospitalized with Covid, Rhinovirus (six times), and Parainfluenza. We have been to five different hospitals and emergency rooms. Because of his pulmonary issues, he is in need of heavy support. The worst came at the end of September 2022, when we rushed to the ER because Vincent was breathing erratically. By the time we got back to see a nurse, he stopped breathing, and the ER went into chaos. This became his first of six life flights to Mayo in Rochester.

Remember, God has a plan, and God's plan was for us to be at Mayo! Through our visits there, we have been able to pinpoint Vincent's pulmonary needs, and we have been able to make a care plan and speak for him to get the coverage and medical help he needs. Yes, we have had more visits, life flights that we did not want, but each time we learn something, change something, and the visits are less frequent.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved” (Ephesians 1:3-6).

God had a plan. He watched over Vincent's biological mother and gave her peace to not abort the pregnancy. God gave her peace as she decided to place him for adoption. God guided the process to bring us to Vincent and Vincent to us. God continues to comfort us and bring us peace as we struggle with the stress of Vincent's medical issues. But through it all we continue to praise God and to be a strong voice for one of His children!

Thomas J. Wilson is Director of Christian Education at Zion Lutheran Church, Humboldt, Iowa.



Timothy

by Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations

I did something this year that is a bit unusual, and it has led to some very interesting things. I received an email from Timothy, who wanted to submit an entry in our Lutherans For Life essay contest. Writing is a challenge for him, so he used “talk to text” to write his essay while his mother asked questions. It turns out that Timothy, a sixth grader from southern Minnesota, has Down syndrome. I was so moved by Timothy’s essay that I gave him an award that I have used a few times over the years called the “Spotlight Award.” It is given to a student who did not win anything in our contest but who wrote an essay from a unique perspective. Then along comes Timothy. What stood out was his statement that he has “autism, Down syndrome, and Baptism.” Here is his essay:


My name is Timothy. My name means “valued by God.” I live in Minnesota. I live with my mom, dad, and sisters—Abby and Hannah. I am in sixth grade. I like classes at school like P.E., band, choir, social studies, and Mrs. Momberg’s class. I play trombone and piano. I like to listen to Christian music in my bedroom. I like to play games with my family. I have autism, Down syndrome, and Baptism. Baptism means I’m God’s child. I love everyone. I like riding my bike. I want to travel to Waupaca so I can kayak. I like to sing to God and I lead my family in praise songs during family devotions. I love God. I was in a video with my friends.

[YouTube: World Down Syndrome Day Video for Kids] Lots of schools saw it. It was about World Down Syndrome day explained for kids.

God loves everybody. God loves people that are big and small. God loves people that are every age. God loves people no matter where we live. All people are special to God. The Bible says, **“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand”** (Ephesians 2:10). God has good things for each of us.

We had a terrible legislative session in Minnesota when it comes to life issues, but there are good things happening, too—we just need to find them!





Chats 4 Life – Offering high school and college youth an opportunity to learn about contemporary life topics from expert guest speakers. Held every first and third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET.

What about ... Mondays? – On the second Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. CT/7:00 p.m. ET, students gather to talk about life issues and to find hope-filled, Gospel-motivated answers.

For Life Conversations – Recorded 5-15 minute interviews on life topics shared on our Facebook page and website.

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LFL

Spotlight on



LIFE

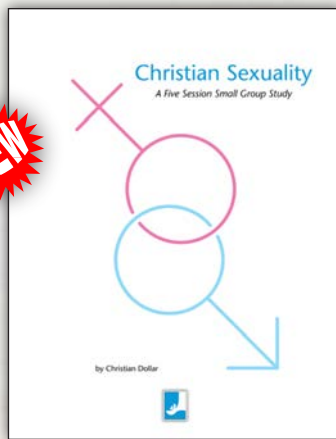
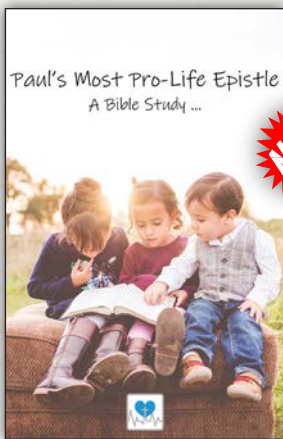
Spotlight on Life brings awareness of life issues through brief locally hosted events. From abortion to euthanasia, human trafficking or disabilities, sexuality and gender, or marriage and family, we work with you to find the right expert speaker and set up for your life event needs.



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Paul's Most Pro-Life Epistle – A Bible Study – by Pastor Michael Saleminck. *Item LFL120B. \$0.50 ea.*

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2023 Lutherans For Life

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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.

lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-quotes



Do you know a family in your congregation who is having its fourth or more child? Fill out the form at the link below, and the Miami Valley Life Chapter will send a blanket made with love directly to this expectant mother (in the continental United States). No strings attached! lutheransforlife.org/article/lambs-lutherans-assembling-mercy-blankets



Buying or selling a home or commercial property? Support Lutherans For Life at the same time! Call 877.543.3871 or email proliferealestate@yahoo.com for more information. realestateforlife.org
lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life



Frontline Call – For all LFL Frontline volunteers! Monday, October 9, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET. There will be a devotion, activity update, life project ideas, guest speakers, and Q & A. **For topics, speakers, and Zoom links, go to the LFL homepage calendar.**



For those who have had an abortion, a **Word of Hope** ... 888.217.8679
word-of-hope.org
info@word-of-hope.org



Find Lutherans For **Life** on ...



Lions4Life Team Update

by Elizabeth Crawford



Faith Lutheran School, Plano, Texas, started its Y4Life Team in November 2022, and we have been working very hard behind the scenes to promote life!

Our first official activity as a team was participating in our school's Treat 'N' Feast fall festival. At our small booth, we gave away Life Savers® candy and bracelets to everyone who stopped by. There was a lot of interest from youth and adults alike, which was very exciting!

Our team also supported our school's Life Week in April through a "Baby Bottle Drive" for a local pregnancy resource clinic. We used the baby models that Y4Life gifted us and explained the different stages of life to students. All of the children, especially the younger ones, were fascinated by the baby models and asked many questions about how babies were born and how babies could fit in their mother's womb. Life Week was an intimidating but exciting experience, and seeing how excited the staff and students were about the presentations was very encouraging.

In the spring, as part of an after-school event that featured social time and snacks, we showed the life-affirming movie *The Drop Box* and had a brief discussion about the movie after viewing.

At the end of the school year, we partnered with Human Coalition, a local pro-life organization, and began a collection box for clothes and diapers. We were able to use some of the money from two grants to purchase strollers, baby carriers, and other needed supplies to donate to the mothers served by Human Coalition.

We are looking forward to the next school year and have even more activities planned. We continue to pray for the unborn, the differently abled, the older members of our community, and others. We are honored and determined to be a Gospel-focused voice For Life, and we are excited to see where the next year takes us!



Gifts Received and Service Rendered

by Virginia J. Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations



"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10).

It's so simple, isn't it? All you need do is serve others with the gifts the Lord has gifted to you. Yet, do you hesitate? Do you feel inadequate? Do you think you are too young or too old? Are you already overbooked with life's events? And yet, others seem to be serving all the time. Do you ask yourself how do they do it? There is no magic answer when serving the Lord. It will take a slight change in priorities or time spent on current activities as you fit in one more or exchange something else for this new priority in your life. It can be done, and I encourage you to pray about it before diving in as this is extremely important work.

As we read in 1 Peter 4:10, we all have received gifts, and we are to use them to serve one another as good stewards of the various gifts God has given to us. This is exactly the mission of Lutherans For Life. We are equipping Lutherans and our neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. We are here to help you be equipped to serve others in the life arena.

I have to believe you are hearing about the many life issues affecting our society today, from abortion to physician-assisted suicide and other end-of-life issues. People are being affected by laws being passed that affect life, including a baby in the womb all the way through end of life. Perhaps someone has a terminal illness and wants to be faithful to God's plan but is also influenced by others, maybe even medical staff, suggesting ending their lives prematurely through assisted suicide as a means to avoid suffering and being a burden to their family. Our Lord promises to be with us to the very end, and we need not fear. Palliative care today has improved immensely, and there is no need to suffer, when managed appropriately. You can still have quality of life and enjoy your end days until the Lord takes you home with Him to eternity. Just because our government officials make something legal doesn't make it right. God makes that decision, and He has given us the guidelines needed throughout scripture to do the right thing. Yet our



society continues to change people's perspectives, and even those in our church pews can go down wrong paths and participate in the inappropriate taking of a life. That is why the work of equipping through education is so important. As people hear the world's perspective through the media, they also need to hear from you and me what God's plan is and how to be faithful to it.

This is why we need to keep the information flowing, so both Lutherans and our neighbors get the correct information and guidance provided in God's Word. Lutherans For Life has an abundant inventory of media in many forms that needs to be distributed. That is why we need you. Whether it's printed material, video, social media, speakers for a life event, or something else, LFL can help you.

You now have multiple different ways you can serve as a life-affirming servant of the Lord. You can start a Life Chapter and serve your congregation, and an entire community, including other Lutheran churches. You can start a Life Team in your congregation by providing educational means in many formats to share God's Word For Life continually. And you can be a Life Advocate as one person supporting your pastor in keeping information in your church bulletins, newsletters, social media, and however else your church communicates with your members and neighbors. We provide the means, and you provide the servant's heart.

Won't you let us help you get started in this important mission? Please pray about this, and if you have any questions, reach out to our Volunteer Relations Team. We are all here to help.



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CALVARY: A Life-Affirming Approach

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life



Sometimes it's easy to be a Gospel-motivated voice For Life. You simply wait for God to open a door, and then you walk right through.

Here's a prime example: While exhibiting at a recent youth conference, participants stopped by the Y4Life booth to receive a stamp on their bingo sheets. To earn that stamp, they had to answer two questions:

"Is your life valuable?"

"If so, why?"

Youth overwhelmingly answered the first question confidently and in the affirmative. They knew their lives were valuable, and they were eager to confess it. Even better, most of them knew *why* their lives were valuable; they knew they were created by God Himself, and they rejoiced in that confession. Through guided, joy-filled discussion, youth discovered how each person of the Trinity gives them worth.

Though all of the interactions brought joy from the Lord, not all of them were easy. In fact, some conversations were heart wrenching. Like the young woman who hesitated when asked if her life was valuable and finally concluded, "Maybe, but probably not." Or the adult who stood at our table and stared at the babies. After finally building up the courage to hold one, she quickly choked up and had to walk away. And then there was the woman whose relative is pro-choice and who refuses to refer to the baby growing in her mother's womb as anything more than a clump of cells. God certainly opened doors in these moments, too; He provided opportunities to affirm life and help bear sorrow.

But sometimes God opens doors to paths we'd rather not travel, paths with life issues we weren't expecting, life issues we're sure we're really not ready for. Like hearing a close friend has terminal cancer. Or discovering a child has been diagnosed with a life-altering disability. Or sitting next to a woman on a plane who looks you straight in the eye and says, "I used to have a niece, but now I have a nephew. And my other nephew started saying he was a girl when he was three, so he transitioned early."

It's tempting to jump off the path, to just shut your eyes and hide from the issues. Weighed down by sin and death and brokenness in a fallen world, life issues can be heavy, and responding to them with a Gospel-motivated voice often means saying things that are both counter-cultural and unpopular. Yet ...

"God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power and love and self-control"
(2 Timothy 1:7).

Yes, God's Word is pretty clear: We're called to speak the truth in love so that we might win our neighbor, and in so doing, bring him to Jesus.

“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love” (Ephesians 4:15-16).

There are lots of ways to do this, and I’d certainly encourage you to download the Y4Life brochure *Charitable Conversations: 8 Tips for Redirecting a Hostile Discussion* to discover some of the best approaches. (Find it at y4life.org/resources/education-resources). But for now, I’ll offer an acronym that might come in handy as you engage in conversations about life. It’s based on the word **CALVARY**. Each letter stands for a step you can take to uphold life.

Connect – Life issues are easiest to address when we connect to the person experiencing the life issue. Perhaps this connection is new—like sitting next to someone for a two-hour flight—or perhaps a life long friendship exists. Either way, connections are best built on kindness, graciousness, humility, and respect.

Ask – It’s okay—good even—to ask about a person’s views on an issue, how he or she is responding to or experiencing this life issue, or how this issue has affected his or her life. It’s important to understand a person’s experiences as well as the reason behind his or her views.

Listen – After asking a question, listen to the answer. Really listen. What is motivating his or her response? What has shaped his or her view? Is the individual motivated by feelings or logic?

Verify – Make sure those listening skills are sharp! Rephrase what you heard and say it back to the person you’re speaking to. Be sure your perception of his or her reasoning is correct.

Affirm – Agree where you can. Admit that it would be difficult for a woman to raise a child on her own. Affirm that experiencing a terminal diagnosis will mean you need others to care for you. Express empathy for the individual struggling with gender confusion and brokenness.

Respond – Here’s where all of your work to become educated on life issues comes into play. Use this opportunity to provide a life-affirming alternative to address the life issue at hand. This is where your Gospel-motivated voice shines for life!

Yoke – Like two oxen helping to bear the other’s burden, your conversation and response should help ease the burden of the individual you’re engaging in conversation. How can you help shoulder his or her burden? How can you help affirm his or her life into the future?

Through our vocations, both permanent and temporary, Christians are gifted opportunities to share the Gospel-motivated message that every life is valuable and in so doing, carry the light of Christ into dark places filled with sin and death. It’s true, this work won’t always be easy; there may be times when we wonder about the path God has placed us on. But we can be confident that we aren’t traveling alone. Christ goes with us, and His grace is sufficient. Always.

Transhumanism: An LFL Position Statement

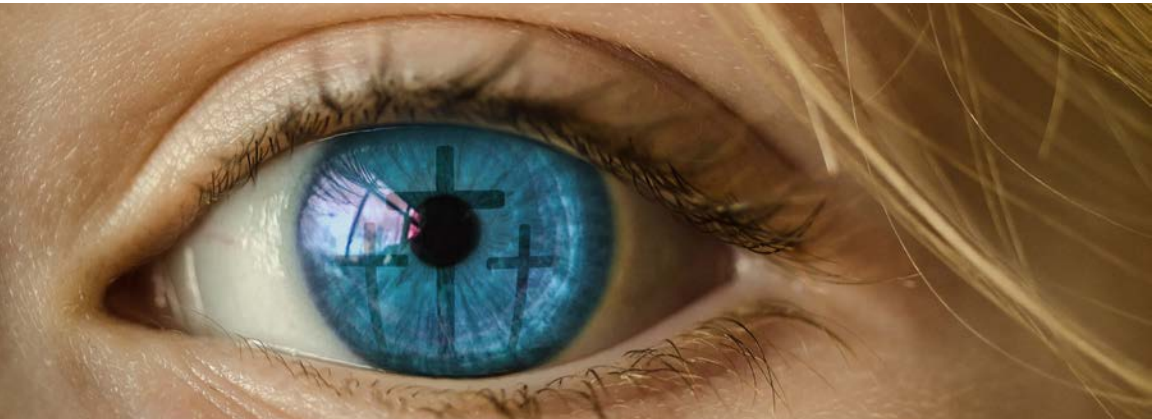
by Pastor Michael Salemink



Lutherans For Life’s board of directors from time to time issues position statements. Previous issues addressed include capital punishment, embryo adoption, in vitro fertilization, stem cell research, population control, and of course abortion and euthanasia. You can access these documents here: lutheransforlife.org/life-issues/position-statements.

The directors adopted another official position statement for the organization at their most recent meeting. This one concerns a pursuit known as Transhumanism. It has less to do with gender and more to do with technology. Transhumanism represents a viewpoint and movement that prioritizes enhancing, advancing, and evolving human nature. It wants to exceed current capacities—by combining the body with chemical and mechanical elements or converting the person into electricities and information—and attain immortality. For example, transhumanists believe we can eventually capture memory, intellect, and character in codes and programs, then archive them on computers and extend this “existence” indefinitely. Artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and even neurological implants for digital interfacing (mind communicating directly with machine) offer frontiers for the transhumanist enterprise.

Clearly, Transhumanism is attempting a salvation by human works. It defies the sanctity of life by regarding the humanity Almighty God creates, redeems, and calls as somehow provisional or insufficient. Instead, Transhumanism would modify what humanity means and redefine a new kind of being. It goes beyond good, right, and salutary medical applications that pioneer processes or structures (like pacemakers or prosthetics) that replace damaged anatomical members or supplement deficient physiological functions and restore them to normal. Undoubtedly the “progress” Transhumanism idolizes would require experimentation that endangers especially the vulnerable. Christians do recognize that the Gospel promises a perfecting of both the individual body and the human race by virtue of our Lord’s incarnation and resurrection (Philippians 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2). But this we receive as God’s own doing after the manner of Jesus Himself, whose risen self remained fully of the human species.



Transhumanism

- WHEREAS, Scripture clearly states that the Lord God Almighty, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, created and still preserves all human life (Job 10:12); and
- WHEREAS, God has authoritatively and intricately knit each as He wills, in the mother's womb (Psalm 139:13-16); and
- WHEREAS, Human life, even though marred by the Fall and resulting in sin and death, has a unique and valued place in God's creation (Genesis 9:6; Psalm 8:5); and
- WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ sanctified human life by His incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension; and
- WHEREAS, God, through His Word and His Spirit, uses even things that the world sees as limitations for His glory and for the good of our neighbor (Romans 8:28; I Corinthians 12:22); and
- WHEREAS, God may heal certain diseases or conditions through medicine and technology to ameliorate incapacity and suffering (Jeremiah 8:22; Ecclesiastes 3:3); and
- WHEREAS, God has provided His Word to reveal the Christ, to tell us how He gives faith, to give us hope, and to enable us to live lives pleasing to Him (John 5:39; Ephesians 2:8; Hebrews 11:1; I Thessalonians 4:1; I Peter 3:15); and
- WHEREAS, God has given those baptized into Christ His Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth and comfort them in life and in death (John 16:13; John 14:16); and
- WHEREAS, Transhumanism is a mindset and movement that attempts to achieve immortality through human efforts; and
- WHEREAS, Transhumanism endeavors to enhance human nature beyond the abilities and function given by God; and
- WHEREAS, Transhumanism embodies the Darwinist idea that humans, having evolved from lower forms of life, are therefore capable of evolving into a "master race" with the help of technology and psychology; and
- WHEREAS, Transhumanism is based on a subjective view of reality that teaches that humans can be whatever they visualize themselves as being (Genesis 3:5; Genesis 11:4); and
- WHEREAS, Transhumanism, as an ideology and a pursuit, represents a faith and doctrine that is incompatible with Christianity; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That all in Christ should give thanks to God for all that He provides for our good as ones created, redeemed, and called to be His own; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That Lutherans For Life recognizes technology as a divine blessing to be used in faith toward Him and love toward the neighbor (examples include the Roman roads that were used to spread the Gospel and the printing press that was used to spread the Reformation); and be it further
- RESOLVED, That all in Christ should be wise in the use of all technology so as not give any opportunity to Satan to tempt those in Christ or further his efforts to deceive by imitation of works of God; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That Lutherans For Life opposes Transhumanism as defined above, as contrary to God's will and encourages all to remain aware of its nature and evil effects, most notably the rejection of the glory and promises of God in Christ; and be it finally
- RESOLVED, That all in Christ should not attempt to transcend our God-given human nature and functions, but rather seek to fulfill our God-created purpose.

For the Homeless

by Rebecca Oerman



Being For Life is about more than abortion and working to support mothers and their babies. For example, for the past three years, one of the projects that the Knights4Life Y4Life group from Martin Luther Jr./Sr. High School in Northrop, Minnesota, has done is putting together hygiene kits in support of the homeless.

This project started in 2021 when group advisor Rebecca Oerman suggested helping the homeless—and the group ran with it! After getting the word out in local church bulletins, they were able to put together sixty kits, with forty going to the Salvation Army homeless shelter in Mankato, Minnesota, and twenty going to Options Pregnancy Center in Fairmont, Minnesota. In 2022, they put together seventy-five kits and added The Shepherd's In, a men's shelter in Fairmont, to the list of recipients. In 2023, they were able to put together ninety-eight kits, adding CADA of Fairmont, a nonprofit organization serving victims and survivors of relationship abuse and sexual violence.

Kits contain travel-size shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, soap, and lotion; socks (one of the main things needed), toothbrushes, tissues, feminine hygiene products, and wet wipes, along with various random things that are donated (such as dental floss and bandages). The items are placed in Ziploc bags along with a note with a Bible verse. Monetary donations and a Thrivent Action Team grant help to pay for the supplies. Additionally, MLHS students, families, and area church members also donate supplies.

When people hear about “life groups,” they often think of babies, mothers, and pregnancy resource centers—and that’s great! Knights4Life was blessed to be able to also support and show God’s love to those of our neighbors who don’t have a permanent place to call home.



“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10b).

Lutherans For Life has used the *second half* of John 10:10 a lot over the years as a kind of signature verse.

It's a great verse that fits our *mission* well.

The *first half* of the verse fits our *time* particularly well:

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy” (John 10:10a).

From abortion to assisted suicide to sexual chaos and so-called gender-affirming care, so much of our culture is about destruction and rebellion and narcissism and an escape from reality.

As Christians, we have a better message.

We are For Life!

Abundant Life!



Life Thoughts in the Church Year

Based on appointed readings from Lutheran Service Book

October 1 – Pentecost XVIII (Proper 21A) – Remaining silent about the sanctity of life enslaves us to selfishness just like abortion does. But God’s grace and forgiveness in Christ Jesus free us from looking out only for ourselves. We get to speak His truth and show His love to every one of our neighbors—not out of “selfish ambition or conceit,” but in service to “the interests of others” (Philippians 2:3-4).

October 8 – Pentecost XIX (Proper 22A) – The psalmist openly rejoices that Almighty God cherishes every human life He creates. “Let your hand be on ... the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself” (Psalm 80:17). The same Lord invites us to delight in receiving one another as gifts and privileges—no matter what size, skills, or circumstances. Why settle for bloodshed when we can have justice (Isaiah 5:7)?

October 15 – Pentecost XX (Proper 23A) – Abortion and physician-assisted suicide represent a surrender to death brought about by fear. We need not be afraid of enduring terminal illness, because our Heavenly Father protects us even in the darkest places (Psalm 23:4). And we need not be afraid of carrying surprise pregnancy, because our dear Savior Jesus provides all we need even in the most difficult times (Philippians 4:12-13).

October 22 – Pentecost XXI (Proper 24A) – Taxes and politics may belong to Caesar, but every human life belongs to God from fertilization to forever. He made our bodies—and those of our neighbors—in His own image (Matthew 22:19-21). And since He retains responsibility for deciding the manner of our life and the timing of our death, abortion and euthanasia are choices no one needs to make.

October 29 – Pentecost XXII (Proper 25A)/Reformation Day – Our Reformation heritage includes boldly and gladly confessing God’s Word. The Scriptures speak frequently and forcefully of taking care of children (1 Thessalonians 2:7) and standing up for a neighbor’s life (Leviticus 19:16). Christians cannot promote or even permit putting people to death by abortion, assisted suicide, and embryo experimentation. Love for our Father means love for each other!

November 5 – Pentecost XXIII (Proper 26A) – The Lord our God has given us sexuality for relationship, family, and community. These matters cannot become merely private choices or personal preferences. What we do with our bodies also affects our neighbors (1 Thessalonians 4:3-6). Abortion reveals that lust always leads to destruction. Marriage and parenting prove we do not need abortion – indeed, these gifts leave us no room for it!

November 12 – Pentecost XXIV (Proper 27A) – Like the parable’s bridegroom, Jesus often meets us in unexpected moments (Matthew 25:10). He even sometimes hides in surprise pregnancies or terminal diagnoses in order to rescue and bless. So, we dare not ignore the poor and needy neighbors who cry out for deliverance (Psalm 70:1, 5) from abortion and assisted suicide. If we do indeed love the Lord’s salvation, then let us say so (Psalm 70:4)!

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

Find One-Year Lectionary files at lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-thoughts

November 19 – Pentecost XXV (Proper 28A) – Many around us despair because the world pressures them into the violence and fraud (Zephaniah 1:9) of viewing death as a solution to difficulty. In the sanctity of every human life, we have riches to spare (Matthew 25:15). Gospel hope and joy are not just for us to possess. Jesus brings us faith and life to proclaim and put into practice.

November 26 – Pentecost XXIV (Proper 29A) – Guilt and grief can devastate those who abort their own children (Matthew 25:37-38). The Lord God longs to relieve their wounds with His forgiveness (Ezekiel 34:16). If Jesus overcomes death for us, He can also subdue it for them (1 Corinthians 15:25-26). May our mouths make the joyful noise (Psalm 95:2) of explicitly applying His atoning grace to every sin!

December 3 – Advent I – Surprise pregnancy intimidates, and terminal diagnosis terrifies because they darken the future. But Jesus the Savior looks through walls and sees around corners (Mark 11:2-3). He has promised abundant and everlasting life as the one who both secures the ends and supplies the means. God is faithful and will sustain (1 Corinthians 1:9); can we confirm it with our testimony (1 Corinthians 1:6)?

December 10 – Advent II – John the Baptist prophesied the Gospel of the Kingdom that with Jesus' blessing is always coming (Mark 1:7-8). Even during surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis, He is not slow to keep His promises. Instead, He acts patiently, not wishing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9). Aren't we crying out about it as this generation's voice in the wilderness (Mark 1:3)?

December 17 – Advent III – Those who believe cannot help but speak. God's love for every human life has filled our mouths with shouts of joy (Psalm 126:2). We have His permission to give voice to this Gospel in all circumstances and without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18). Our time has come to bear witness to the Light (John 1:6-7). Confess and do not deny (John 1:20) the sanctity of life!

December 24 – Advent IV/Christmas Eve – Almighty God has profound interest and investment in childbearing and childrearing (2 Samuel 7:12; Luke 1:31). He has made this relationship and vocation central to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Every mother and father, every son or daughter embodies the love of the Lord for humankind. While abortion attempts to conceal the realities, our sanctity-of-life advocacy gets to reveal this delightful mystery (Romans 16:25).

December 31 – Christmas I/New Year's Eve – Christmas – and a new year – offers opportunity for the joys of looking forward. Simeon and Anna exemplify and inspire faith that finds strength and celebration in anticipating. The Heavenly Father who escorted us thus far will also usher us ever onward. Neighbors facing surprise pregnancies or suffering terminal diagnoses need to know. For their sake, please do not keep silent (Psalm 62:1)!

You Can Make an Impact

by Dave Probst, Director of Development



Donor Advised Fund (DAF) Grants to Lutherans For Life

You can make an impact on our Gospel-motivated voice for life mission and furnish a reliable revenue stream to Lutherans For Life by providing a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) grant offering to our ministry. Here's what you need to know about Donor Advised Funds and grants from them:

- Donor Advised Funds are a charitable investment account maintained and operated by a financial institution who handles the paperwork and administration of your account.
- Donor Advised Funds allow the owner(s) the flexibility of recommending the amount of grant money given to Lutherans For Life and the time LFL will receive each grant.
- Donor Advised Funds can be funded when it's established or continually over time. Adding to the fund over time is a great way to grow the fund and impact LFL long term.
- Donor Advised Funds are simple to create, and any assets can be used to fund the account. (**Appreciated assets can often provide even greater tax benefits**). The DAF can even be created as part of your estate plan.
- Donor Advised Funds are often used to lower taxes after a windfall, such as receiving an inheritance or selling a business. You receive an immediate tax deduction after you contribute to a DAF, and, better yet, you aren't taxed on any growth your DAF experiences, allowing the fund to grow tax-free.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, need help with providing a Donor Advised Fund grant to LFL, or would like help with finding a financial advisor to set up a Donor Advised Fund to support Lutherans For Life. I can be reached at 812.603.7970 or dprobst@lutheransforlife.org.



Lutherans For Life ...

- **Applies God's Word**, both His Law and His Gospel, to all the life issues—abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia, sexual purity and bio-technology.
- **Assists For Life Christians** in offering the hope and help of the Good News of Jesus Christ to all, whatever their circumstances.
- **Believes God gives the gift of life to all people**—from the moment of conception until natural death.
- **Needs your support to continue to encourage, educate, and uplift with a Gospel-centered, Word-based message of hope, forgiveness, and new life!**
- **Witnesses** to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God.
- **Serves** through individuals who volunteer at pregnancy care centers, with hospice, through prayer, and in a wide variety of caring activities.
- **Educates and Encourages** through conferences and presentations, printed resources, Life Sunday materials, Bible studies, curricula, audio and video, and through lutheransforlife.org.
- **Equips** local congregations to speak out on life issues in their communities through Life Chapters and Life Teams, or as a Life Advocate. LFL State Federations, Life Chapters, and Life Teams also support a variety of compassionate, caring pregnancy and post-abortion ministries (including our own Word of Hope) that offer pre- and post-natal counseling, parenting skills workshops, and lifestyle counsel.
- Is a **Recognized Service Organization** (RSO) of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.
- Is a **ministry partner** of the North American Lutheran Church.
- Is not subsidized by any church body.
- Is supported entirely by individual donations and grants.



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

Equipping Lutherans and
their neighbors to be Gospel-
motivated voices For Life!

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

Our Vision ... Every Lutheran, both individually and in community, upholding the God-given value of human life and influencing society to do the same

Our Philosophy ... Lutherans For Life believes that the Church is compelled by God's Word to speak and act on behalf of those who are vulnerable and defenseless. The crisis of our times is the repudiation of biblical truth manifested in the wanton destruction of innocent human life through legalized abortion-on-demand and the growing threat to the lives of others through legalized assisted suicide and euthanasia. Therefore, as Lutherans For Life, we will strive to give a Gospel-motivated witness to the Church and society on these and other related issues, such as chastity, post-abortion healing, and family living. We will call God's people to compassionate action and foster life-affirming alternatives for those facing difficult situations.

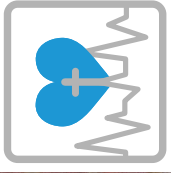
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