

LIFEDATE



Summer 2024
from
LUTHERANS FOR LIFE



Made 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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You and I are made for life, abundant and everlasting.

It seems rather important to distinguish between living and not.

It also seems quite instinctive and simple. Kindergartners can typically tell the difference. But we age, and confusion sets in: Medical experts disagree about whether an embryo or an incapacitated hospital patient qualifies as alive, at least alive yet or alive anymore.

Biological science has long since settled on consensus criteria. When an entity undergoes respiration, metabolizes energy from nutrients, grows and reproduces, and adapts to the environment, we categorize this as life. (The embryos and patients obviously constitute living human beings.)

Christian truth and faith understand it even better.

“In him [the Word made flesh] was life, and the life was the light of men” (John 1:4).

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life’” (John 14:6).

“Because I live, you also will live” (John 14:19).

“Your life is hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3).

“It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (Galatians 2:20).

This definition sets humankind apart. This dimension distinguishes Adam’s and Eve’s race even from animals and plants. It categorizes us instead in connection to God. Life’s worth consists not in bodily attributes or abilities alone but in gracious relationship with Christ Jesus. The species He creates with His breath, redeems by His incarnation, and calls into His family shares His life with a nature and to a degree that the other creatures do not.

Life—real life and full life—has as its purpose more than merely thinking and feeling or choosing and doing. It means receiving from the Almighty Maker, rejoicing in the Heavenly Father, and reigning with the Lord and Savior.

You and I are made for life, abundant and everlasting. And this Gospel is made for all our neighbors, every genetic member of humanity.

WAY - TRUTH - LIFE
JESUS

Our Friend Jerry Was Made For Life!

by Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life



Maybe you know someone like our friend, Jerry. He's one in a million! He started coming to our church a few years ago when he moved into the apartment complex across the busy street from our church. Even though he didn't have a Lutheran background, he embraced everything about us. At first, he shuffled to Saturday evening service and at least one service and a Bible study on Sunday morning—always with a smile! Then he had to use a cane, and now he uses a motorized scooter.

Jerry tells the story of his birth when the doctor dropped him on the floor, and he stopped breathing. Because of that he has Cerebral Palsy. The doctor told his parents that "he would be dead by age 12." Jerry is now 80 years old and promises to look for that doctor when he gets to heaven!

Throughout his life, Jerry has experienced many difficulties, not only with his health, but with the way he was treated. As a child, he was often made fun of because of the way he walked and talked. (It does take some getting used to and some careful listening to understand him.) Jerry said, "They put me in a retarded room at school, and they didn't teach us anything." His father was ashamed of him, and they had a poor relationship until right before his father's death.

Unfortunately, he wasn't treated very well at the church his family attended either. When Jerry was eight years old, the pastor told his parents that he was no longer welcome in his church because it made his church look bad. Thankfully, the family did find another church and continued to attend. Throughout his life, Jerry has used Philippians 4:13 as a source of strength and comfort:

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

In 1975, Jerry developed a group he called "The Young Adult Handicap Group." This group was very helpful to many young adults. Around this time, he began his career as a janitor at a St. Louis public school and retired at 50 years old after 18 years of



service. Now Jerry goes to church as often as he can, and if he doesn't show up for services or his various Bible studies, everyone wonders where he is!

Despite his disabilities, Jerry is excited for his Lord and his life, and he smiles all of the time—except when he is serious while getting his picture taken! (We were fortunate to get the photo on page 4!) He eagerly talks about Jesus with his medical personnel and to all he meets.

“Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature” (Genesis 2:7).

Some people would look at Jerry and only see his disabilities, but Jerry was Made 4 Life by his creator just to be who he is—a strong Christian man who influences many. In his own words: “Never lose sight of where you came from but look where you are going. God called you. Something good is about to happen. It's yours, so grab it!”



My husband, Mike, and I were able to attend the Lutheran Adoption Conference at the Hyatt Regency Houston April 10-11. It was a very informative and enriching experience. (Getting there was a story unto itself with a delayed flight, a canceled connecting flight, and ending up at the “other” Houston airport! Yet, as it worked out, we were only 10 minutes late to dinner!)



It was worth it! Singer Mark Schultz told his very moving adoption story. Speakers also included Rev. Max Phillips; Kim Laube; Mollie Clark; and Rev. Dr. James Lamb, Lutheran Family Service; Rev. Michael Salemin, Lutherans For Life; Dr. Brad Imler, Christian Adoptions Alliance; Chandler James, The Riverside Project; and Rachel Greiner, Christian Life Resources. Watch for more information on adoption!

Eternal Identity

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life



I've been doing lots of cleaning lately—lots of sorting and throwing and giving away. And though it's exciting to be productive, this purging is made more impactful because it's a reminder of God's promises, promises that speak to the core of my identity.

How does cleaning do all of that? Let me give you a little background:

Perhaps you know that five years ago I left my full-time teaching career to embark on a new venture at **Lutherans For Life** as **Y4Life** Director. Though this new vocation would still be intimately tied to mentoring and teaching youth, I knew it would also be vastly different, offering new opportunities and challenges.

And it has! There is no classroom to decorate or fall musical to direct, no game to take tickets for or dance to chaperone, no journal to read or essay to grade at LFL. And though I have countless fond memories of my time as a teacher, I've thoroughly enjoyed serving as director of **Y4Life**, where I am called to work alongside faithful co-workers and mentor enthusiastic youth who are eager to share a Gospel-motivated message for life. In fact, I can't think of a better way to be employed!

So, it may surprise you when I admit that the cleaning and purging I'm doing now should have happened years ago. Five years ago, to be exact. That's right, five years ago I packed up my classroom and files. Five years ago, I stored all that stuff in my parents' basement (Thanks, Mom and Dad!), and five years later, I'm finally able to let it go.

Why has it taken so long? It's embarrassing to admit it, but that stuff has been intimately tied to my identity.

You see, for twenty-one years, I was a teacher, and I had the stuff—lesson plans, books, units, posters, games, décor, pencils, and a variety of other teacher paraphernalia—to prove it. Somehow, that stuff became synonymous with my identity, and much to my chagrin, it began to define me. Hence, getting rid of it hasn't been easy.

I really shouldn't be surprised. After all, Satan's first temptation was connected to identity, wasn't it? When Satan posed the question, "Did God really say ...", he was tempting Eve to redefine herself, and it worked; discontent with the gifts she'd been given, Eve desired to be like God. She forged a new identity when she ate the forbidden fruit, and, in so doing, traded life for death.

Adam wasn't far behind. Instead of following God's Word, Adam followed Eve's: "Take and eat," she said, "Taste and see that the fruit is good." And Adam, too, turned away from the identity God provided. His sin brought death to the world.

The same temptation—to reshape our identity, to recast ourselves in the image of this world and to find meaning in temporary things—is present today, too. We eagerly take on labels that define us in comparison to others: pro-life or pro-choice, democrat or republican, liberal or conservative. And sometimes, whether we want to or not, we also carry the labels that others have placed on us: oppressed or oppressor, binary or non-binary, cisgender or gender fluid, rich or poor, cottage core—the list goes on and on.

These labels separate us into camps—often into opposing parties that seek to divide us rather than unite us. Even worse, they seek to define us by worldly standards. They tempt us to locate our identity in the stuff—the work, the labels, the fractions, and the brokenness of sin—rather than in HIM.

But thanks be to God that the Bible is very clear as to our identity. Genesis 2:7 reminds us of who we were meant to be, **“Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.”** Handmade by the one true God and designed in His image, we are inherently valuable, not only for this life but for all of eternity.

Even more, we are confident of God’s love despite our sin. Isaiah 43:1 declares, **“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.”** It is through Christ’s death on the cross that we can be certain of both our belonging and our identity. Yes, His work for us has made an indelible mark on the very hands of God, **“Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands,”** Isaiah 49:16 reminds us.

God provides tangible means to affirm our identity; in Baptism we are made sons and daughters of God Himself. Through His adoptive work, we become heirs of the kingdom of heaven. And in the Lord’s Supper, our identity is not only confirmed but also strengthened for eternity. Here, at the Lord’s wedding feast, we are forgiven, not only for the times we have forgotten our identity but also the times we have actively tried to reform ourselves into the likeness of the world. **“Taste and see,”** Psalm 34:8 reminds us, **“that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.”**



Precious in His Sight

by Barbara Lane Geistfeld, D.V.M.



Jesus loves the little children of the world.

“Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature” (Genesis 2:7).

Sometimes, as we Americans live our lives day in, day out, year after year, we may forget that God has richly blessed us with material things we now take for granted. We have clean, pure water—both hot and cold—right at our fingertips when we turn on one of our many faucets. We have indoor flush toilets, bathtubs and showers, washers and dryers, vacuum cleaners, refrigerators, electric or gas cook tops with vents to take away the odors, steam, and smoke (at least *mine* takes away smoke), beds, closets, dressers, tables and chairs, televisions, computers, telephones, cell phones, cars, and trucks—the list is almost endless. And we often have *more than one* of all of these!

Perhaps it is time to stop and remember that no matter our possessions and surroundings, we are just a tiny part of the mankind that God our Father formed from the dust and breathed into life. We are a tiny part of all those who have dreams, fears, and hopes for their future and for their children’s future. Our possessions do not make us different from the rest of mankind, and they do not remove from us those same dreams, fears, and hopes.

My husband Jim and I have been blessed to have traveled all over the world in the last fifty years. We’ve visited all the continents and all the states, all the while meeting people of different races, cultures, religions, and economic means. One fact that we have absorbed deep into our souls is this: *We are all identical inside.* We are made of the same dust by the same Creator for the same purpose. He calls all of us to be His children and walk in His ways.

I would like to share some of this “oneness” that we observed. In the early 1980s, we visited Chile and Peru (Barb) and Bolivia and Peru (Jim) with Lutheran World Relief. We visited families who had received animals and other resources from LWR. In one village, someone introduced me as *Doctora*. Being a veterinarian made no difference. I was soon giving out all my first aid supplies to people with leg wounds and other needs. Their smiles of gratitude for a tiny tube of triple antibiotic overwhelmed my heart. In one of the small homes, a young woman held a baby with a badly running nose. I reached over with a tissue to wipe her nose, and the baby leaned way out of her mother’s arms to get away from the tissue. Mom and I looked warmly into each other’s eyes as all of us women laughed. I did not need to speak Quechua to understand our bond as mothers.

We visited China in 1994 with Heifer International. The families that had received cattle, sheep, goats, ducks, chickens, or pigs from Heifer had several things in common with us. They worked hard to keep their animals healthy. They were so proud of what they had accomplished. Their first purchases with the money they earned from their animals were medicine and school supplies for their *children*. The

next purchase was a sewing machine to help them earn even more by the work of their hands. They shared their newfound “riches” with others. We did not have to speak Mandarin Chinese to see the pride and self-worth that filled their lives now that they could take care of their families.

We visited Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda with Heifer a few years later. In one village where the people lived in mud huts with thatched roofs and dirt floors, a young man wearing a ragged snowmobile suit (his best, worn in our honor), leaned over a small, brand new concrete trough and turned on a tiny faucet that filled this trough with clean water from his rain-capture system. We did not have to speak Swahili to understand his gratitude. We could feel our hearts swell with his pride and our tears flow on his behalf.

I could go on and on. We shared Russian-language Bibles with the ship’s crew that took us to Antarctica, Spanish-language Bibles for the crew in the Galapagos, Chinese-language Bibles in China, Nepali-language Bibles in Nepal, and a cassette player with the entire New Testament in Romanian for our trip there. Everywhere we went, the people were just like us. Made from the same dust by the same Father. Bound together by our humanity. Made identically in God’s image.

We still travel. We still meet people “different” from us. But that difference is totally external. Inside we are one creation: created by God, redeemed by Jesus, the Lord of Life, and someone who is a child of God through our Baptism or someone God longs to claim as His child. May God help us to see people as He sees people—*precious in His sight*.

*Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white,
They are precious in His sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.*

(Clare Herbert Woolston, Public domain)



A Statement on Transgenderism

by Pastor Michael Salemink



We need to exhibit courage and extend compassion.

Conflict about sexuality and gender is raging. From pronouns to bathrooms to Athletics, truths and faiths about the human body are competing for authority and acceptance. Neighbors are experiencing confusion and distress about the foundations of their identity. And Christians have concerns about how best to care for loved ones struggling with same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria (a feeling of disconnection between one's male or female anatomy and one's sense of masculinity or femininity).

Sex designates a biological reality. It has a binary structure (male or female) that depends upon genetics. Our Almighty Maker defines it at fertilization and delivers it with the gift of body. No one else can assign it or change it, because it resides in and constitutes every cell.

Gender refers to a psychological or social reality that derives from sex (masculinity or femininity). In Lutheran parlance, we recognize it as a vocation. The Lord God clearly intends for sex and gender to correspond closely:

“He who created them from the beginning made them male and female” (Matthew 19:4).

Some bodily disorders can make it difficult (but not impossible) to determine sex. Certain inaccurate and ungodly assumptions and stereotypes about masculinity and femininity have caused unnecessary harms. Vulnerable neighbors—especially adolescents turbulently learning about bodies and relationships or sufferers of physical deficiencies and interpersonal traumas—fall prey as pawns to cultural forces advocating sexual license. And the sinful human nature does exploit sexuality and gender to assert one's own pride and to abuse one another.

We have the obligation to exhibit courage. We also have the opportunity to extend compassion. The forgiveness, resurrection, and unconditional acceptance of our Savior Jesus relieves and heals our most profound brokennesses. Speaking God's truth to oppose current transgender ideology as deception and immorality, and showing Christ's love to uphold sex, gender, and identity as blessings from heaven, Lutherans For Life's Board of Directors offers the following official position statement.



Transgenderism

WHEREAS, God created man in His image as male and female, with complementary vocations, especially with regard to marriage and procreation (Genesis 1:27, 2:18; Matthew 19:4); and

WHEREAS, God personally designs each person (Psalm 139:13; Jeremiah 1:5; Ephesians 2:10), bringing together a sperm and an egg of His choosing from father and mother and genetically selecting the sex of each at fertilization; and

WHEREAS, Sex refers to the configuration of the body for procreation as male or female, and gender refers to the carrying out of one's vocations as male or female (with masculinity or femininity); and

WHEREAS, God connects gender directly to sex (Deuteronomy 22:5); and

WHEREAS, Gender dysphoria, which consists of significant and persistent tension between one's sex and one's sense of gender, may develop in response to relational trauma, disorders of sexual development, mental health impairments, and social pressures; and

WHEREAS, Transgenderism is a false and idolatrous belief system that insists that individuals determine their own identities in defiance of created reality and demands that others affirm this sinful pride (Genesis 3:5); and

WHEREAS, Neither hormones nor pharmaceuticals nor surgical mutilations change the biological sex our Almighty Maker gives from the moment of fertilization (1 Corinthians 6:19-20); and

WHEREAS, Reliable research concerning "gender-affirming care," including puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and reassignment surgeries, remains lacking; no studies currently and conclusively demonstrate achievement of desired "benefits;" and the repercussions of these measures are serious, life-threatening, and often irreversible (including infertility, cardiovascular disease, emotional distress, and increased risk of suicide or other self-destructive behavior); and

WHEREAS, For most young persons who experience gender dysphoria, it resolves as they continue development into adulthood, and their sense of gender corresponds to their sex; and

WHEREAS, We all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), including with reference to sexuality and gender, and even within the realm of heterosexuality; and

WHEREAS, Our Savior Jesus Christ was crucified and resurrected to atone for, forgive, rescue, redeem, and relieve all the weaknesses of the flesh, including gender dysphoria and other sexual deviance, and God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4); therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Lutherans For Life affirms that one's sex and its corresponding gender are given by God from the moment of fertilization as one of the blessings of abundant life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Lutherans For Life opposes hormonal and surgical manipulations intended to change one's sex or gender, while affirming that neighbors suffering gender dysphoria need appropriate spiritual and psychological care to help them to appreciate their bodies and lives as God's gifts to them; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Lutherans For Life advocates for research into possible medical or psychiatric etiologies of gender dysphoria, with the goal of appropriate therapies to treat any underlying causative conditions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That as Gospel-motivated voices For Life, Lutherans For Life takes these positions out of love and strongly condemns hatred and physical violence toward these individuals; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Lutherans For Life affirms that neighbors experiencing gender dysphoria, along with advocates of transgenderism and the rest of humankind, are sinful creatures to whom God extends grace through Jesus Christ, that God's forgiveness is for them, and that they may avail themselves of this Holy Absolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, That even under pressure from the devil, the world, and the sinful nature, Lutherans For Life affirms that "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

Adopted 20 February, AD 2024

Not an “Other”

by Rose Acquavella



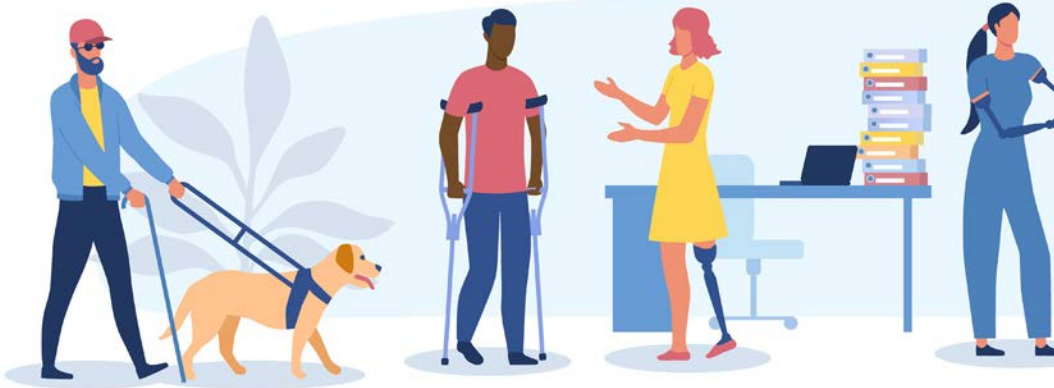
How we treat people with disabilities matters more than we might imagine.

Although it is not commonly known, people with disabilities make up one of the largest minority groups in the United States. Moreover, it is a minority group that one can unwillingly join at any time, facing all the discrimination that can come with being “other.” I never thought it would include me. Tomorrow, it might include you. For that reason, how we treat people with disabilities matters more than we might imagine. *(For this article, I will speak primarily about physical disabilities. A disability “substantially limits one or more major life activit[ies]” –adata.org.)*

I would like to share some of my experiences at two different churches. While I was at the first church, which belonged to a different denomination, my physical health started failing significantly. I was only in my early 30s and had had some health problems, but suddenly, I could only eat 600-800 calories a day. I was frantic as I struggled to fulfill my responsibilities while my doctor provided no treatment. The church prayer team prayed for me, but over time, it seemed they were getting tired of the same prayer request as my health kept getting worse, not better.

It was found that my body was riddled with arthritis; I had major surgery; and I ended up needing a walker for reasons my doctors could not explain, especially since my eating was improving with better medical care. Church members started avoiding me, as if I were “too much.” I met with the pastor about this, and he recommended only that I pray through the church directory. In other words, it was my burden to “fix this” by praying for the church in my exhausted state, not the church’s burden to hold space for people with disabilities. *(Diane Langberg, in her book Redeeming Power, describes how the people who speak about problems within churches are often themselves considered the problem, as happened to me there.)*

I stayed too long at that church thinking I had nowhere else to go, but ultimately, I had to leave. I was not exactly theologically Lutheran, but a phone call with the now-retired Rev. Barry Hildebrandt made me feel more than welcome. I began attending Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on Pentecost of 2020. I was



received as a member by confirmation that November after Pastor Hildebrandt and I determined that the differences in theology were minor enough for me to fit well there. Nobody seemed to care that I now wore a wide brimmed hat due to light sensitivity or that I occasionally still used a walker or a cane. That Christmas Eve, the church secretary gave me one of the church's handmade Christmas quilts, telling me that I was a gift to them. I did not understand, but I was very touched.

The next year, when children's Sunday school (ages 3-10) started back up after COVID-19, I began helping under the direction of Byron Brakenhoff, an elder and the lead teacher. I had years of experience working with children in various contexts, and the children who, not knowing me, had previously referred to me as "Hat Lady" were now asking "Miss Rose" for everything from affirmation of their drawing to another snack. Something interesting started happening: the church gladly worked with my needs. If I was having a bad day and was using my walker, there were extra hands, both small and large, to help clean up after Sunday school, or even an adult volunteer in the class to provide extra support. When I was heartbroken over an experience of discrimination, Byron arranged substitute Sunday school teachers for months until I could teach again. Church members listened to me, prayed for me, and even got angry for me. No one made me feel like a burden during that time, especially when it was lengthened by another major surgery, or asked me to step down as a teacher. Thankfully, I have been back to teaching for a while now with the same consideration from my church. They see that I have a gift with the kids, but they are a gift to me in making it possible for me to serve. I do not even think they realize how much they have done.

How do we demonstrate the value of the lives of people with disabilities?

By creating systems where they are welcomed, where they are as much a part of the church as the typically abled. Where those who can hardly speak are still included in conversations, where those who can serve in limited ways are enabled to serve when they can, where the burden is borne by the able-bodied to make the less able-bodied just as important in the church's life. Where, if you become disabled tomorrow, you also will feel fully welcomed as a child of God.



Your Ministry Partnership Matters!

Lutherans For Life cherishes your support in our education, advocacy, and life-affirming endeavors. Your faithful and unwavering partnership is making an impact in the hearts of all people and the lives of their neighbors. Listed below are examples of the many ways your financial donation might be used to assist our Gospel-motivated, life-affirming work.

Gospel Preparation – (Under \$250)

- One registration for a Y4Life Apologetics Retreat.
- Print and ship a Life Team tool kit.
- Paper for a month (office supplies).
- Translating an LFL brochure into Spanish.
- Adding close captioning to online videos.
- One Word of Hope spiritual care session.
- One Word of Hope hotline call.



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Gospel Motivation – (\$250 - \$500)

- T-shirts for Y4Life Summit participants.
- One student scholarship for Y4Life Conference.
- Develop and print one Frontline playbook.
- One student scholarship for Y4Life in Washington, D.C.
- Conduct beta testing for new and converted materials online.

Gospel Transformation – (\$500 - \$750)

- Website maintenance for six months.
- Transfer Frontline training materials to an online resource.
- Print Word of Hope brochures.

Gospel Proclamation – (Over \$750)

- Publication of a new LFL brochure or Y4Life infographic.
- Travel expenses for an LFL presentation or exhibit.
- Spotlight on Life event.
- Edit or build a Frontline video.
- One year of Microsoft Office for LFL staff.
- Word of Hope video production of online training materials.
- Mailing quarterly *LifeDate* journal.

If you would like to partner with LFL and our efforts to uphold life from fertilization to forever, please consider an online gift at lutheransforlife.org/donate or mail your donation to Lutherans For Life, 1101 5th Street, Nevada, IA 50201-1816.

And remember ... Every time you shop at any of the 1,800+ online stores in the **iGive** network, a portion of the money you spend benefits Lutherans For Life. It's a free service, and you'll never pay more when you reach a store through **iGive**. In fact, smart shoppers will enjoy **iGive**'s repository of coupons, free shipping deals, and sales. To get started, just create your free **iGive** account. Start iGiving at: www.iGive.com/LFL.



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JOIN US ONLINE!

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.

Find us on YouTube!



Coming in January!

Spotlight on



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.



Help your life event shine!

Willing to host a brief event in your church to promote life?

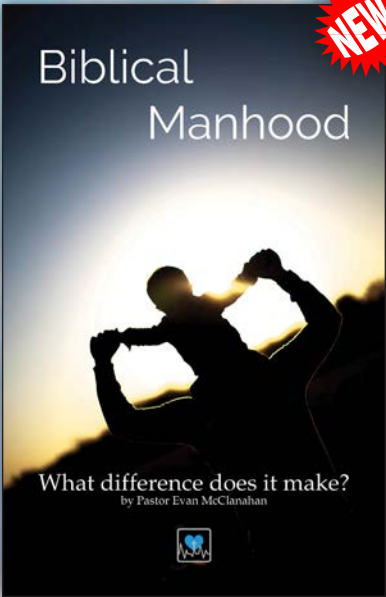
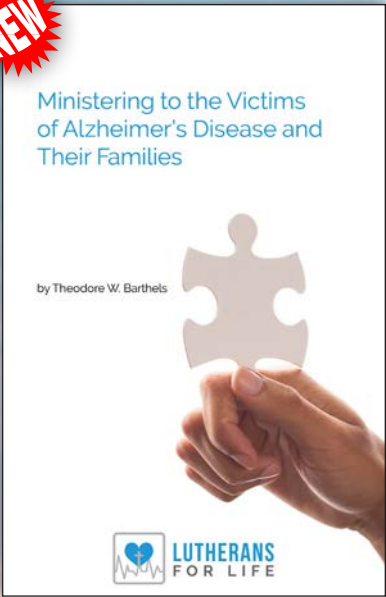
Contact us for more information info+spotlight@lutheransforlife.org.

I Praise You ... – This beautiful 14" x 36" fold-out brochure highlights the fetal development of Jesus in the womb. *Item LFL101B. \$1.00 ea.*



Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Morning Prayers – This child-friendly brochure offers prayer thoughts and encouragement for the start of a new day. *Item Y4L115-1. \$1.50 ea.*

Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Night Prayers – This child-friendly brochure offers prayer thoughts and encouragement for the end of day. *Item Y4L115-2. \$1.50 ea.*



Ministering to the Victims of Alzheimer's Disease and Their Families – Thoughts on ministering at a critical time. *Item LFL1605. \$1.00 ea.*

Biblical Manhood – What Difference Does It Make?
Item 310B. \$1.50 ea.



2024 LFL Regional Conferences
Join Us! Life Shines in Darkness

September 14, 2024
Regional Conference Northeast
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Bristol, Connecticut (Hartford area)

October 12, 2024
Regional Conference Midwest
Hope Lutheran Church and School
Shawnee, Kansas (Kansas City area)

November 9, 2024
Regional Conference Southeast
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Winter Garden, Florida (Orlando area)



Order LFL Resources at cph.org or 800.325.3040. Shipping/handling applies to all orders. Quantity pricing on select resources.



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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/lambs-lutherans-assembling-mercy-blankets



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lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life



Frontline Call – For all LFL Frontline volunteers! Monday, July 8, 2024 – 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 ...



A Lament for the Church

by Deaconess Janet Nicol



Fellow Christian Lutherans, consider the importance of lament in our lives. The fact that we, as Christians, are called to be faithful to Christ and His Word means that we call out to Him in **every** situation, including deep despair and anger. This is living under the first and second commandments and part of our prayer life as we pray the first petition of the Lord's Prayer, "Hallowed be Thy name."

Now let us look at a psalm which is a lament for the Church. Psalm 10 (which also can be placed under the second commandment and the first petition of the Lord's Prayer) laments over the enemies of the Church. Who are those enemies? Make no mistake: They are the devil and all those who follow his ways. Now open up your Bibles, everyone, and look at Psalm 10.

Verse one starts out with a question that we often ask: Why does it seem that God is far off, hiding in times of trouble? This is an oft-asked question. It is seen many times in Scripture. This is comforting because it tells us that it is okay to question, to express disappointment or frustration. The truth is that He isn't far off; perhaps He is hiding, but as we have discussed before, God has His ways and reasons for doing things that we cannot always understand. We are, after all, creatures, not the Creator. Again, I reiterate that it is desirable to the Lord that we ask even if we don't get an answer.

The following ten verses speak of the wicked and their boasting, arrogant, greedy, and oppressive ways toward the poor, the innocent, and the helpless. The wicked say in their heart, "There is no God," or "God has forgotten, He doesn't see me." This is the self-justification mode kicking in. "Since God doesn't exist, or even if He did," we say, "He's not looking at anything I do. I can do whatever I please in order to gain for myself." Not only the devil plays a part in this, but even our own Old Adams sink to low levels. Look at verse two where the psalmist says, "**Let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.**" This is a prayer in which we ask God to fulfill His promise to make sure the unjust get their due rewards.

Verse twelve picks up again the prayer that God will see to it. "**Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted.**" It continues with the comfort that the Lord will hear, will act, and will give strength to the poor and afflicted Church. He will not let His Church die. We are His bride, and He is the perfect Husband.

Take heart and have hope, God's people! Even though it appears as though we have been abandoned, that our existence here seems innocuous, not making a difference to our communities, we are not those things. God is not done with us yet. He only asks that we remain faithful because He is ALWAYS faithful. So, pray the lament of Psalm 10 and rejoice!

pray without ceasing,
in Christ Jesus for yo

Be Content ... Love Your Life!

by Virginia J. Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations



"[F]or I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:11, 13).

It isn't easy being content in all situations. Life is difficult. Things happen or better said, "Life happens." After all, we are human, and we can get discouraged. When we focus on the negative side of things and start feeling sorry for ourselves, we fall into the trap of forgetting to turn to the Lord for help to give us strength. That's when things can even become more difficult.

We are so fortunate that we are blessed with God's love For Life. Our Heavenly Father created us, Jesus redeemed us, and the Holy Spirit works faith, through the waters of Baptism, calling us to an eternal relationship.

There are so many situations in life where we could fall prey to negativism and fall into a state of depression and self-pity. Perhaps each of you can think of situations that have happened to you or others. Without the knowledge of God's love For Life, we are left in a state of hopelessness. We are so fortunate we have a God who loves us and is there for us in all circumstances of life.

I grew up in a household that welcomed foster children to live with us. Those stays ranged from just a few weeks to ten years. One thing I noticed was every child had a strong desire to go back to their previous situation, no matter how bad it was. Some of their lives were surrounded by alcoholism, drug addiction, and physical and emotional abuse in homes that were basically unsafe. Yet, even with all this danger, they longed for someone to take them back. As I got older, I concluded they took on guilt for their situation. After all, they were the ones removed from their homes, and their parents or other relatives stayed behind, so they must be the problem. Some were able to go back home in a short period of time, and others were never able to go back. During their stay in our home, my parents immediately involved them in our Christian lives. They participated in prayer, devotions, worship, Sunday school, and more. Something as simple as a table prayer was new to many of these children. It was my parents' hope that while the children were in our home, sharing the love of Jesus would stay with them, giving them contentment in their lives.

Recently, I found myself in a new situation that caught me by surprise. I was out of town and went to a restaurant by myself for breakfast. While there, I overheard a conversation between a sister and brother in the booth next to me. It was quite early, so the restaurant was fairly empty, and the sound carried. The teenage girl revealed the subject of the conversation as she informed her brother. She had told her mother she isn't happy being a girl and plans on transitioning to be a boy as soon as she turns eighteen. He wanted to know what their mother said. She replied, "She said she would be concerned." The girl then added, "It would be the first time she would be concerned about me." That was sad to hear. She then commented to her brother that their mother treated him differently than she treated her.

This young girl didn't have a perfect body, like most teens desire, as and she looked a bit disheveled. Add to this she doesn't have a positive relationship with

her mother and thinks her brother, being a boy, is treated better and is perhaps more loved. It wasn't difficult to conclude she surely isn't content. How many other young people are facing similar situations and think transitioning to a different sex will solve their issues? Transitioning surgery will not solve the physical and emotional issues this girl is facing.

The final discussion between these two siblings was around to whom, when, and how she should announce her plans. She shared her concern for how her friends might react and questioned whether they would still want to even be her friends. At that point they both picked up their belongings and left.

I wasn't sure what to do, so I immediately prayed. I haven't been able to get this off my mind. Please pray with me as there are many other young people facing similar situations as they are confused by worldly influences about their gender God created. Pray for their parents, family, and friends who need help and hope dealing with these situations. Pray these conflicted people struggling with gender identity will find the Lord and share their struggles with Him so He will give them strength and they will **be content**.

Dear Lord, please send Christian witnesses to share Your love to those people who are discontent. Soften their hearts and give strength to those not content who come to You, so they may love their lives. Amen.

**I CAN DO
ALL THINGS
THROUGH
CHRIST
WHO STRENGTHENS ME**

PHILIPPIANS 4:13



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Made For Life from the Very Beginning

by M. Roy Schwarz, M.D.

The American Heritage Dictionary, Second College Edition, defines “life” as “the property or quality that distinguishes living organisms from the dead or inanimate matter manifested in functions such as metabolism, growth, reproduction, and response to stimuli.” These four criteria can be used to judge whether some object is alive or dead.

Science has taught us that the process of human development begins when the male sperm penetrates the female egg. This triggers a series of events leading to division of the fertilized egg. Hence, a single cell divides into two cells, those cells divide into four, those cells divide into eight, and those cells divide into sixteen. This all occurs before the fertilized egg attaches to the wall of the uterus. By seven days, or when implantation begins, a significant cell mass has developed. At 10 days, the cell mass shows signs of differentiation as the cells become specific in their nature. At three weeks, the cardiac or heart muscle fibers may be seen that are capable of contracting. By six weeks, brain waves appear and, by eight weeks, the human form has appeared and organs are developing. By 15 weeks, fetal movement is evident and, by 24 weeks, the fetus is a viable person. By 36 weeks, we have a full term infant.

This process, from fertilization through delivery of the infant, is continuous, without interruptions. There are no stops and no pauses in the process. Once fertilization occurs, bio-chemical events are initiated that continue until a mature human being is formed.

EMBRYO DEV



1 MONTH



2 MONTHS



3 MONTHS

1-23 g



4 MONTHS

23-180 g



5 MONTHS

180-500 g

1 TRIMESTER

2 TRIMESTER

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So when does life begin? To answer that question, it is well to go back to the definition of life and use the four end points for judging if life exists. These include metabolism, growth, reproduction, and response to stimuli.



Immediately after penetration of the egg by the sperm, bio-chemical events start the process of development.

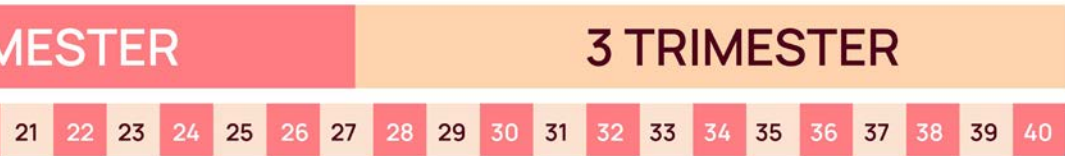
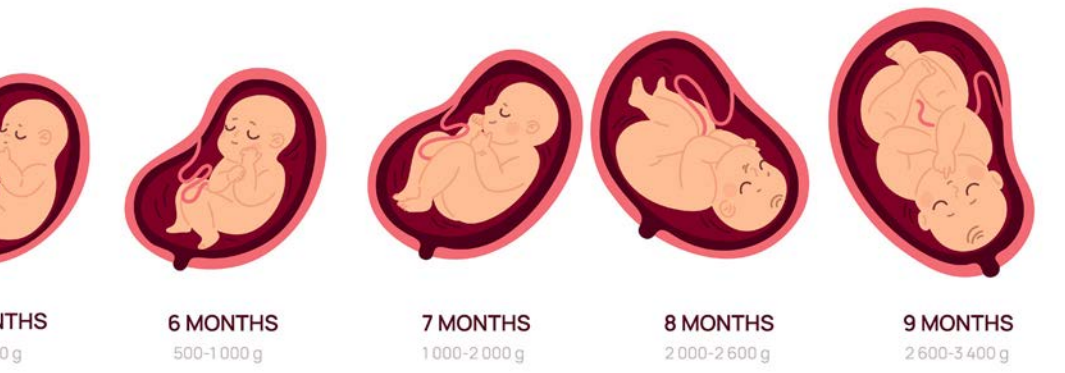
Thus, the metabolism end point has been met.

When the cells begin to divide, the growth criteria has been met. Third, when the cells are reproducing in the course of their division, the criteria required for reproduction is met. The fourth end point, response to stimuli, is a little more vague. It is clear, however, that any cell when confronted with a toxic stimulus will respond by changing the movement of its membrane.

Based on this analysis, one is led to the inexorable conclusion that life begins at the time the sperm penetrates the egg, and life continues until death.

Dr. M. Roy Schwarz served as a professor and administrator for more than 20 years at the University of Washington and the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He then was senior vice president of medical education and science for the American Medical Association. He is the author of more than 150 articles, books, and abstracts. He has also served as chairman of the North American Lutheran Seminary Board of Regents. (Source: NALC News – March 2024 | thenalc.org/newsletter)

DEVELOPMENT





I cannot remember the last time I read a book in which the main character had more than four siblings—and I'm an avid reader. Almost without exception, today's popular books feature characters who are only children, or who have just one sibling.

Going back a few centuries, the results are somewhat better. *The Chronicles of Narnia* features four siblings, the Wilder family in the *Little House* series has four sisters by the final book, and *Pride and Prejudice* tells the story of five sisters seeking eligible husbands.

But where are all the large families?

To the average reader, four or five children *is* a large family. But I grew up with six siblings. One of my closest friends has nine younger siblings. Another has eight. My two pastors have six and nine children. For me, this is normal. Yet families of this size are rarely, if ever, depicted in fiction.

God does not bless all people with children, for reasons we cannot understand. Some men and women are single or infertile or suffer numerous miscarriages. Some families have only a few children—or only one—when the parents would have joyfully welcomed more. And such families belong in fiction as well.

But typical fiction does not celebrate the gift of children and of life. It does not capture a godly yearning for children, even when God does not grant that request. Rather, fiction normalizes broken families. What was the last book you read in which the main character's parents were both alive and were married? Or when the main character had younger siblings who were more than stereotyped nuisances? And on goes the list.

Our children's values are shaped in large part by the stories that they read. And as Lutherans who value the sanctity of life, finding stories that affirm our values feels impossible at times.

Believe me, it is possible—but it can be very difficult.

Life-affirming fiction can do more than address abortion, euthanasia, and other current issues. While those are topics that should be discussed from a Lutheran perspective, many books uphold the value of life in subtler ways.

As I mentioned earlier, books that celebrate children and families are truly prolific books. But stories with other themes also uphold the sanctity of human life.

For example, while many books move on quickly from the deaths of characters (particularly in epic fantasy), J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* allows time for both characters and readers to grieve throughout the story.

Another example is the autobiography *The Hiding Place*, by Corrie Ten Boom. Corrie and her family worked tirelessly to protect Jews from the horrors of the Holocaust. Even in the concentration camps, Corrie saw the value in every human life—even the Nazis.

Yes, many authors write excellent, life-affirming fiction, but those books can be hard to find. Because of this, I have compiled a list of fiction that is prolife in one way or another. Hopefully this will be of help to you in finding excellent books both for yourself and for the children in your life. (Note that I don't fully endorse the worldviews of all of these books, but they are still helpful in teaching the value of human life.)

Recommended Classics: *Little Men* (Louisa May Alcott), *Eight Cousins* (Louisa May Alcott), *Five Little Peppers and How They Grew* (Margaret Sidney), *Anne of Ingleside* (L.M. Montgomery), *Rainbow Valley* (L.M. Montgomery), *The Lord of the Rings* (J.R.R. Tolkien)

Recommended Contemporary Books: *The Hiding Place* (Corrie Ten Boom), *All of a Kind Family* (Sydney Taylor), *The Penderwicks* (Jeanne Birdsall), *Gregor the Overlander* (Suzanne Collins)

Grace MacPherson is the author of The King's Sword and Domitian" (publication pending summer 2024) and the founder of the prolife fundraising project Bracelets for Life. She resides in Casper, Wyoming, with her family.



Strawberry Shortcake Festival

On May 7, the Longhorns4Life group at Lutheran West, Rocky River, Ohio, served up 396 servings of delicious strawberry shortcake in honor of the life that God has given each of us individually! Cindy Schlotman, Physical Education Department Chair, said she, "... was able to say, 'Happy Birthday! Jesus Loves you! You were created to do amazing things' over and over again—what a blessing!" Longhorns4Life also had a recent baby shower in support of a local pregnancy resource center. The mission of Longhorns4Life is to provide education that brings about service for the vulnerable and stands on Gospel values so that all people may know they are loved beyond measure (Romans 8:38-39).

Meet Emma – Our Y4Life Intern!

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!

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

Emma: I am the oldest sister to Claire and Hannah. Claire will be joining me at Concordia University–Nebraska in the fall, and Hannah will be a sophomore in high school. My dad is an engineer, and my mom is a Lutheran church and school administrator and religion teacher. My family lives in the small farming community of Unionville, Michigan. The main crops in our area are sugar beets, corn, and soybeans.

What degree are you working toward in college?

Emma: I am currently studying business administration at Concordia University – Nebraska with a concentration in communications. I am also in the pre-deaconess program.



What led you to want to work for Y4Life?

Emma: When I was in high school, I attended Higher Things Conferences where Michelle had Y4Life booths. I stopped to talk to her, collecting stickers and handouts. This led me to follow Y4Life on social media, where I later saw the internship application. I got excited because this internship would allow me to do prolife work with a Lutheran organization and give me experience in the business end of church work, which is what I hope to do full time someday.

What areas of life ministry are you most passionate about?

Emma: There are so many different areas of life ministry, making it difficult to pick just one. My passion is simply to make sure people realize how many life issues impact our society. Abortion may be what the media focuses on, but it is just the tip of the iceberg! There is human trafficking, *in vitro* fertilization (IVF), homelessness, end of life issues, and so many more. Each of these issues requires our attention so that the sanctity of all human life is upheld.

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?

Emma: Growing up, I was taught that abortion was not God pleasing, but I didn't realize its seriousness until high school when our prolife club presented in chapel. They showed a video, and we were told to close our eyes and listen. Little metal balls slowly started hitting the side of a tin can, and as the video went on, the little balls hit more rapidly, making quite a ruckus. Each "tink" we heard represented 10,000 babies killed by abortion and continued until 50 million abortions were represented. The sound was horrific and had a big impact on me. During my senior

year of high school, I was able to attend the March for Life in Washington, D.C., which encouraged me to continue standing up for life! That passion has continued to grow. I am currently the president of Bulldogs for Life at Concordia–Nebraska.

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

Emma: As a Christian, I know I can take everything to my Heavenly Father in prayer. He will guide my conversation in the way it should go, through the work of the Holy Spirit. After prayer, I simply listen to the other person's point of view. Listening demonstrates that I care about what they have to say, while giving me time to formulate a response. It also levels the playing field, allowing both parties to feel more comfortable and open to hard conversations. This makes it easier to defend the faith and teach the sanctity of life, reminding them that God is the creator of all things and humans are made in His image. 1 Peter 3:15-16 is a great reminder to Christians when they encounter opposition to their beliefs: **"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame."** We are called to defend our faith but to do it in a caring way that shows the love of Christ.

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

Bible verse?

Emma: Romans 6:4, **"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."**

Hobby?

Emma: Traveling and maintaining my flower and vegetable garden in the summertime!

Food?

Emma: My great-grandma's chicken cashew with a side of homemade eggroll.

Podcast?

Emma: I love listening to podcasts about different businesses, such *How I Built This* by Guy Raz or *The Pitch*, but I also enjoy learning from the Youth4Life podcast!

Music?

Emma: Pop or country depending on my mood. However, if I am studying, instrumental jazz is the way to go!

Television series?

Emma: A game show called *The Floor* on FOX.

Finally, is there anything else you'd like to share? Some little-known fact or interesting uniqueness you possess?

Emma: This summer I will visit my 43rd state during the Higher Things Conference in Portland, Oregon!

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

Based on appointed readings from Lutheran Service Book

July 7 – Pentecost VII (Proper 9B) – Surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis confront us with our own weakness. It even leads some to exclude embryos or incapacitated persons from humankind and execute them because of their weakness. Almighty God promises, “My power is made perfect precisely in your weaknesses.” His grace radiates in human frailty, and the blessings He brings in every life more than make up for what we cannot.

July 14 – Pentecost VIII (Proper 10B) – Choice does matter when it comes to surprise pregnancies and terminal diagnoses. But it is the Heavenly Father’s choice that makes the difference (Ephesians 1:4-5). He summoned every life even before our circumstances, and He sustains each one even when we don’t find the circumstances ideal. Likewise, the Lord God’s delight for adoption invites us to advocate and engage in welcoming orphans.

July 21 – Pentecost IX (Proper 11B) – The world wants to discriminate between lives it finds worthy and ones it regards as undeserving. The coming of Christ Jesus has brought about something better – reconciliation that has dissolved all division and abolished hostility in God’s forgiveness and fellowship (Ephesians 2:14-17). His kingdom leaves neither need nor room for discounting anyone because of shade, shape, sex, age, income, education, or residence.

July 28 – Pentecost X (Proper 12B) – Fatherhood embodies the gift and the work of God Himself (Ephesians 3:15). In bringing forth life from their very bodies, our Heavenly Father makes men into His instruments and agents. He expects a strong love from them because He has endowed them with His own. Let us encourage them to protect their children even when inconvenient and provide for mothers even if difficult.

August 4 – Pentecost XI (Proper 13B) – Abortion and euthanasia require twisting words and redefining terms. With craftiness and deceit (Ephesians 4:14) they do not only protest laws and beliefs but ultimately grumble against God (Exodus 16:8). Jesus the Savior instead offers the truth and love that every life is His gift (John 6:33). And He enthusiastically invites Christian citizens to share His joy by speaking and showing it.

August 11 – Pentecost XII (Proper 14B) – Elijah the prophet once considered his life not worth the living. In love the Lord God did not affirm his autonomy but set about to convince him otherwise (1 Kings 19:4-5). Since Jesus imparts also unto us the relief of entrusting all things to our Almighty Maker (John 6:38), couldn’t our sanctity-of-life advocacy extend the same privileges to anxious and endangered neighbors?

August 18 – Pentecost XIII (Proper 15B) – The Word of the Lord quite clearly declares, “Do not become partners with the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 5:6-7). It does not allow the luxury of concluding, “I wouldn’t abort, but I won’t tell anyone

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

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

else what to do.” Our God and Father has commissioned us to expose the works of darkness and not to accommodate or compromise. Indeed, we get to displace these evils with the words of eternal life (John 6:68)!

August 25 – Pentecost XIV (Proper 16B) – The Gospel of Jesus Christ liberates us from living for ourselves alone. We reside in the hands of Almighty God like clay and potter (Isaiah 29:16). So we don’t have to settle for “my body, my choice.” Instead, we get to benefit from Him deciding life and death on our behalf. May our marriages and parenting replicate the magnificent way Christ and Church abandon themselves to one another (Ephesians 5:22-23).

September 1 – Pentecost XV (Proper 17B) – The Lord Jesus insists that visible qualities like age, appearance, and ability do not subtract value from life or impart worth to it (Mark 7:18-23). Rather, invisible sinfulness disqualifies us all from both bodily rights and spiritual privileges. But invisible forgiveness—and God’s grace in creating, redeeming, and calling—delivers sanctity to every member of our race. May this truth proceed forth from our hearts and out of our lips!

September 8 – Pentecost XVI (Proper 18B) – Almighty God makes the Prophet Isaiah solemnly proclaim, “Behold, your God will come ... He will come and save” (Isaiah 35:4). Jesus demonstrates its fulfillment when He does not cast aside but cares for the burdened body of a neighbor with impairments (Mark 7:32-35). So why should we hold our tongues any longer when we could be dispensing the same hope to those facing surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis?

September 15 – Pentecost XVII (Proper 19B) – Promoting or even permitting abortion and physician-assisted suicide condemns precious human beings who are made in the likeness of God (James 3:9). Thanks be to God that in the good news of receiving every neighbor as gift and privilege, the Lord has given us a tongue to sustain with a word the one who is weary (Isaiah 50:4)!

September 22 – Pentecost XVIII (Proper 20B) – In Mark 9:36-37, Jesus explicitly instructs us to receive children as His own precious treasures. Sometimes this does indeed involve difficulty, but our God enlists both the Prophet Jeremiah (11:20) and the apostle James (4:7) to encourage us in resisting selfish ambition and committing this cause to the Lord. He will sustain the Gospel-motivated voice For Life until it succeeds!

September 29 – Pentecost XIX (Proper 21B) – The God of the Gospel leaves no one alone. So the Christian fellowship does not ignore or avoid its members in distress. We fetch cups of cold water for each other (Mark 9:41). We absolve and intercede for one another (James 5:14-16). We assist in preserving surprise pregnancies instead of abandoning them to abortion. And we serve in terminal diagnoses instead of dismissing them to assisted suicide.

Step Up 4 Life 2024 Update!

by Dave Probst, Director of Development



The third annual **Step Up 4 Life** campaign is in full swing, and God has graciously blessed Lutherans For Life and its mission to equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel motivated voices For Life with over \$45,100 in **Step Up 4 Life** gifts from 221 donors!

Our **Step Up 4 Life** campaign is far from over, and you can still support Lutherans For Life by participating in our **Step Up 4 Life** walking campaign as an individual, team, or congregation, leading a one-day **4 Life Day** congregational activity at your church, or providing a donation to Lutherans For Life. Our **Step Up 4 Life** campaign ends on June 24, and we need you to help us finish strong and exceed our **Step Up 4 Life** campaign goal of \$80,000 in 2024.

To learn more about our **Step Up 4 Life 2024** campaign and discover ways you can partner in our Gospel-motivated, life-affirming work, please visit stepupforlife.org/2024.



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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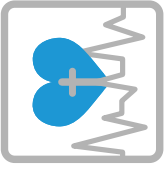
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**64,443,118 babies have been killed in
abortions since Roe v. Wade in 1973**

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