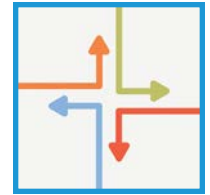


# Directions ...

For LFL's Frontline  
July-August  
2024



*Directions is sent bi-monthly to all of Lutherans For Life's Frontline—State Federations, Life Chapters, Life Teams, Life Advocates—with Bible studies and articles on leadership, faith in action, fundraising, news and notes, and facts and stats.*



*This edition of Directions includes ...*

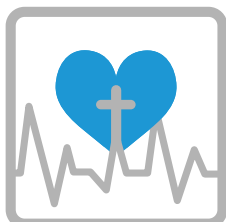
A Bible Study: Frogs and Snails  
and Puppy Dog Tails

What about My AAR?

Bless a Family with a Blanket of Love

Is Your Life Ministry CAREFUL?

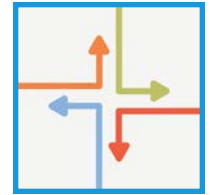
Life Project: It's Movie Night!



**LUTHERANS**  
**FOR LIFE**

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

# News and Notes



- Check out [word-of-hope.org](http://word-of-hope.org) and [y4life.org](http://y4life.org).
- Be sure to “Like” and follow LFL on social media! See links below:

[www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife](http://www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife)

[www.facebook.com/groups/lflfrontlines](http://www.facebook.com/groups/lflfrontlines)

[www.facebook.com/WordOfHopeHealingHearts](http://www.facebook.com/WordOfHopeHealingHearts)

[twitter.com/ForLifers](https://twitter.com/ForLifers) • [instagram.com/lfly4life](https://www.instagram.com/lfly4life) • [www.tiktok.com/@lfly4life](https://www.tiktok.com/@lfly4life)

[www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife](https://www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife)



- Join our Frontline Facebook group for Life Chapters, Life Teams, and Life Advocates: [facebook.com/groups/lflfrontlines](https://facebook.com/groups/lflfrontlines). The group includes an idea exchange and is a place to connect with other Frontline volunteers.

facebook

- LifeDate is a great way to share the For Life message with your congregation. Order LifeDate in bulk quantities at no charge. (Donations for shipping cost will gladly be accepted.) Call 888.364.LIFE (5433) to order. ([lutheransforlife.org/resources/journal](http://lutheransforlife.org/resources/journal))

# LIFEDATE

- Life News is available each month to download and print. Life News is a free monthly bulletin insert with life-issue news and more. Go to [lutheransforlife.org/media/life-news](http://lutheransforlife.org/media/life-news).

# LIFE NEWS

Available in App Stores

Apple, Google Play, Amazon

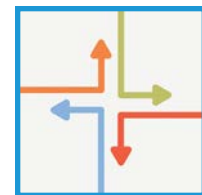
QR Code

Tablet and Smartphone Screenshots



# FRONTLINE CALL

## For all Lutherans For Life Frontline Volunteers!



Meeting ID:  
876 9394 2916

Passcode:  
136752

**Monday, July 8, 2024 • 7:00-8:00 p.m. CDT | 8:00-9:00 p.m. EDT**  
**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87693942916>**

**Carol Thompson**, the Life Team Leader at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Denver, Colorado, will discuss the Life Team-sponsored movie night they held at their church. They showed the movie *Lifemark*, an incredible movie supporting the blessing of adoption. They provided pizza, drinks, dessert, and free babysitting. 65 people attended and shared in learning about an important life topic.

**Erika Peterson**, the Lutherans For Life Events Coordinator, will preview the three LFL Regional Conferences to be held this fall. This is important information for all of us. She will also discuss Spotlight on Life, our LFL Speakers program.

**Virginia Flo**, Director of Volunteer Relations, will give us an update on the Frontline Playbook—Belonging. This wonderful booklet, written in a step-by-step format, has now been mailed to our Frontline. We pray that it will aid the Frontline in using our abundant life-affirming resources for life events in their own churches.

## Life Projects

The Volunteer Relations Team is making a special effort to help you, our Frontline—Life Advocates, Life Teams, and Life Chapters—find interesting projects that you can carry out in your own life ministries. To that end, we have begun adding summaries of projects done by other Frontline members to our bi-monthly *Directions* newsletters.

**Go to [lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org) and hover over the word "FRONTLINES" in the information bar. Life Projects is listed at the end. You may also find it at this direct link: [lutheransforlife.org/life-projects](https://lutheransforlife.org/life-projects).**



# Life Advocates Life Chapters Life Teams State Federations

**VOLUNTEER RELATIONS** is a Lutherans For Life team dedicated to serving the Frontlines, including Life Advocates, Life Teams, Life Chapters, State Federations, pastors, and congregations. They assist them in starting and maintaining a strong, healthy, and vibrant life ministry within their congregations and communities.

Our team is here to share ideas, to mentor, and to walk alongside you as a life ministry consultant and partner.

## **Virginia J. Flo**

Director of Volunteer Relations  
651.333.0337  
vflo@lutheransforlife.org

## **Michele Hartshorn**

Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations  
612.816.6194  
mhartshorn@lutheransforlife.org

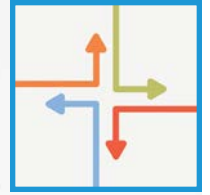
## **Barbara Lane Geistfeld, DVM**

Volunteer Relations Associate  
830.935.3415 (H) | 830.388.8640 (C)  
bgeistfeld@lutheransforlife.org





**LUTHERANS**  
FOR LIFE



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

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



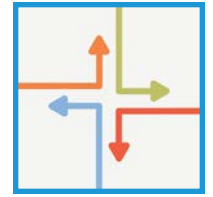
Check out these new resources!

- 10 Reasons Not to Take Your Own Life (fold-out brochure)
- Biblical Manhood – What Difference Does It Make?
- Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Morning Prayers
- Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Night Prayers
- Here We Stand For Life Resources
- Physician-Assisted Suicide (fold-out brochure)
- Miscarriages: An Empty Cradle and a Full Hope
- Cohabitation: Is It Really That Big of a Deal? (fold-out brochure)
- Ministering to the Victims of Alzheimer's Disease and Their Families



# A Bible Study: Frog and Snails and Puppy Dog Tales

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Father's Day reminds us that males mean more than mere strength. No one has to settle for "boys will be boys." We can still rejoice in real masculinity because God Himself has designed male bodies and male psyches for our good. Why not expect that, in time and with guidance, boys will be men?

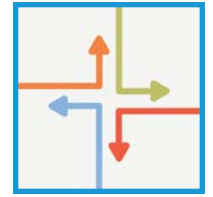
Of course, our Gracious Creator does not regard males as more important than females. And we ought to acknowledge that unhealthy biases and unholy abuses have permitted and even promoted misogyny to the great harm of both individuals and societies. But though men may not resemble the Almighty more than women, they also do not bear more similarity to animals.

The Lord deals with us as father and brother and bridegroom. Sociological research has demonstrated – even independent of what we know from the Scriptures – that what fathers and husbands offer is irreplaceable. Our Heavenly Father in His Incarnate Son wills us to need and benefit from the love and company of males. So we need not retreat from the distinctives of masculinity.

1. What stereotypes about males have you heard circulated? Which of these do you find completely ridiculous? Which ones do you consider somewhat realistic?
2. In your childhood household, what tasks or activities did only the boys do? Which ones gravitated toward the girls? How about in your current household? How did or do you show appreciation to the boys? The girls? How did the girls express irritation? The boys?
3. God delights to relate to His people as a Heavenly Father. Drawing on Luke 11:9-13, 1 John 5:18, Hebrews 12:7, and Psalm 103:13, what particular activities does this include? Which of these—or His other fatherly qualities—do you personally experience and appreciate most? How do earthly father figures carry this out similarly and differently?
4. Genesis 2:15 and 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12 identify that the distinctive vocation of a man includes labor. What do you think it means to work? What do Ephesians 4:28, 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, and Ecclesiastes 3:24-25 suggest as some of the benefits? What others can you imagine?



5. Genesis 3:17-19 outlines that sinfulness brings about specific consequences for males. What have you found are some of the burdens and sufferings that boys must endure? Men? Husbands? Fathers?



6. Isaiah 54:5 and Ephesians 5:25-28 describe our Savior's care as like that of a husband for his wife. What about masculinity reflects and embodies the grace of God? What distortions or misuses of masculinity have undermined these good dimensions? What privileges and what responsibilities do these imply for men?
7. According to Psalm 78:2-8 and Job 1:4-5, one of the primary missions of a male is to ensure that successive generations know the name of the Lord and live in His love. How have you witnessed the men in your life effectively leading and teaching with regard to the faith? What masculine characteristics suit them especially well for this?
8. 1 Corinthians 11:3 and 7-9 charges husbands and fathers to serve as heads of household. What do you think this means in practice? How do 1 Corinthians 11:11-12 and Mathew 20:25-28 clarify that this is not about power or control?
9. In 1 Timothy 5:1 and Titus 2:6, not only husbands and fathers but also young men and unmarried ones contribute to the Body of Christ. In what ways do we sometimes either show preference for or neglect toward these individuals? How can we better recognize and encourage their participation?
10. Deuteronomy 22:5, Leviticus 18:22, and Mark 10:6 insist that male and female are not interchangeable. What similarities do you see—both from the Scriptures and from your own experience—between men and women? What differences? How might you consider celebrating the blessings of manhood?



# Step Up 4 Life

## Campaign Update:

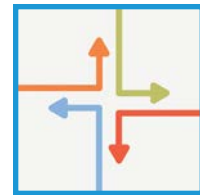
**WE DID IT!** Thanks to everyone in the Lutherans For Life community for "STEPPING UP" and abundantly blessing our 2024 Step Up 4 Life Campaign. Your impactful contributions through participation, prayer, and stewardship offerings helped us REACH and EXCEED our Step Up 4 Life goal! As of June 24, we have raised more than \$98,000! Thank you for partnering with us and our Gospel-motivated mission for life!





# What about My AAR?

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As a Life Chapter, Life Team, or Life Advocate, it is important that you submit a regular Annual Activity Report (AAR). We are asking for these annually, thus the name of the report. Why do we need them? As a chartered member of LFL, you have agreed to represent our organization in your church and community. If you don't report in on your activity, there is little opportunity for us to find out how you are doing. We never want to leave you in the field all alone with no support. We, at national LFL, are here to help. When we know how you are doing, we can discern the type of help we can provide that will keep you flourishing and doing the Lord's work For Life in your location.

We are all in this life arena together. We love to share ideas with everyone in the field. You are the ones doing the legwork, coming up with new ideas, and making them work, with the Lord's help. What you share with us is extremely valuable to your sisters and brothers in Christ in the Frontlines serving the Lord of Life.

We want you to be proud of the work you do and be willing to pass on your successes and information about your life group, so we in turn can keep you informed and up to date on what we are doing. We realize it isn't an easy task to fill out the annual form every year. Know that we do appreciate your efforts.

If you have misplaced your form, you can go to any of the pages on our website for a Life Chapter, Life Team, or Life Advocate found on the Frontline tab. At the top of each page, all three AARs are listed. Be sure to choose the right one to access the online functionality or download the form.

## 2023 ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORTS (AAR)

- Online Form: [Life Chapter Annual Activity Report \(AAR\)](#)
- Download Form: [Life Chapter Annual Activity Report \(AAR\) \(PDF\)](#)
- Online Form: [Life Team Annual Activity Report \(AAR\)](#)
- Download Form: [Life Team Annual Activity Report \(AAR\) \(PDF\)](#)
- Online Form: [Life Advocate Annual Activity Report \(AAR\)](#)
- Download Form: [Life Advocate Annual Activity Report \(AAR\) \(PDF\)](#)

If all else fails, give our office a call and we will send you a copy. If you are confused about how to complete the form, contact our Volunteer Relations Team. Their contact information can be found at [lutheransforlife.org/volunteer-relations](http://lutheransforlife.org/volunteer-relations) as well as on page four of this issue of *Directions*.

Thank you very much for your personal and group efforts to serve your churches in equipping Lutherans and our neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.





The Lutherans For Life **Volunteer Relations Team** joyfully and diligently spends many hours speaking to individuals from Lutheran churches around the country—encouraging, equipping, and supporting them as Gospel-motivated voices For Life, whether as **Life Advocates**, **Life Teams**, or **Life Chapters**. As an encouragement to all of you already working For Life on the Frontline, we would like to introduce to you the newest members of your Frontline community.

## New Life Teams

Certified Life Teams who have completed both the Life Team Leader and Life Team Member training are:

- **Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fairhope, Alabama**  
*We welcome our first Life Team to the state of Alabama!*
- **Trinity Lutheran Church, Bellingham, Washington**

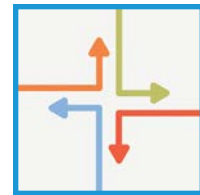
We rejoice in and celebrate the addition of these new Gospel-motivated voices For Life to the Lutherans For Life Frontline. If you would like to know more about becoming a Life Advocate or starting a Life Team or Life Chapter, please contact Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations, at [vflo@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:vflo@lutheransforlife.org). The entire Volunteer Relations Team is here to help you!



[lutheransforlife.org/volunteer-relations](https://lutheransforlife.org/volunteer-relations)



# Bless a Family with a Blanket of Love



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

Through the craftiness of some LFLers in the Dayton, Ohio, area, along with the Miami Valley Life Chapter, a project entitled **LAMBs** (Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets) was created in 2018. More than 200 handmade baby blankets have been distributed since then. The Miami Valley Life Chapter is seeking volunteers to share their gift of sewing by helping to make blankets. There are many requests, and they want to honor them all. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Kim Merritt at [mrs.kimberlymerritt@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.kimberlymerritt@gmail.com).

Although our world might tell us otherwise, children truly are a blessing. Therefore, Lutherans For Life celebrates children, especially those families with a lot of them! **LAMBs** celebrate families that are awaiting the birth of their fourth or more child by gifting them with a homemade blanket.

Do you know such a family in your congregation? Each blanket is made with love and shipped directly to the expectant mother anywhere within the continental United States as well as Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico (to which a blanket was recently sent). Thank you for helping us care for your neighbor in this way!

To nominate someone, download and complete the PDF form at [lutheransforlife.org/lambs-lutherans-assembling-mercy-blankets](http://lutheransforlife.org/lambs-lutherans-assembling-mercy-blankets) or print the form from this issue of *Directions*. Simply send the completed form to Belén Fry of the Miami Valley Lutherans For Life Chapter. Her mailing address is on the form.

Michele Hartshorn was privileged to nominate Nick and Jessica Anderson as **LAMBs** recipients on March 5, 2024. “A sincere thank you to the **LAMBs** project for the opportunity to honor my friend, Jessica, and to celebrate the joy of God’s gift of a fifth child,” acknowledged Michele.

The handmade blanket arrived at the Anderson home in Apple Valley, Minnesota, on March 11, 2024. Jessica expressed her appreciation for the special package.

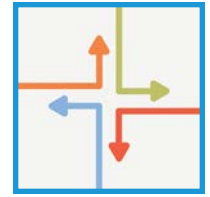
*“The blanket is so soft and adorable,  
and I love the pink crocheted hat.”*

The Andersons have been blessed with five healthy, adorable children: Soteria (8), Josiah (6), Ezekiel (3), Matthias (2), and Orelle (infant). Orelle was born on April 8, 2024, at 6:10 p.m. She weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and measured 20 inches in length.

**“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:13-14a).**



The Anderson family attends the Lutheran Church of the Ascension (LCMS) in Burnsville, Minnesota, where Jessica’s dad, Pastor Joel Vano, has served as pastor for the past nine years. Pastor Joel and Judy Vano have been blessed during their 36 years of marriage. The family utilizes their gifts and talents to serve the Lord’s ministry. Nick leads the handbell choir and volunteers on the praise team as a drummer. Jessica serves as the church secretary and praise team leader, and she serves part-time as the event planner at Amnion Pregnancy Center in Burnsville, Minnesota ([helpofferhope.org](http://helpofferhope.org)).



**“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all”**  
(Ephesians 4:4-6).

Jessica and all her children have been baptized into Christ’s family at the Lutheran Church of the Ascension. The entire family was present when Orelle Gloria Anderson was baptized by Grandpa, Pastor Joel Vano, on Sunday, April 21. Orelle’s sponsors were Kirsten Meyer and Mitch Berndt. We were “praising God for all the love and support as Orelle was brought into God’s family in Baptism,” reflected Jessica.

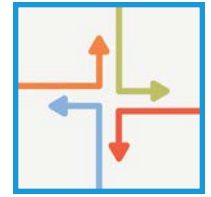
This August, Nick and Jessica celebrate their 10-year wedding anniversary, having met while attending Concordia University – St. Paul.



*“The Lord has blessed our family. I only hope that Jessica and I can live our lives according to His will and be the Christ-like example that our kids look up to and try to grow up to be. Having a larger family, we find ourselves constantly praying. Our most common prayer is for strength and patience. Being a family of seven has many challenges, but we wouldn’t change it for anything,”* rejoiced Nick Anderson.



# LAMBs – Mercy Blankets



Although our world might tell us otherwise, children are truly a blessing. Lutherans For Life would like to celebrate children—especially those families with a lot of them! Through the skillfulness of some LFLers in Ohio and elsewhere, along with the Miami Valley Life Chapter, a project called “LAMBs” (**Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets**) was established.

We would like to celebrate families that are awaiting the birth of their fourth or more child by gifting them with a homemade blanket. Do you know such a family in your Lutheran church? If so, please contact Virginia Flo, our director of volunteer relations, at [vflo@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:vflo@lutheransforlife.org) so that she can arrange for this gift to be sent to them. (Alternatively, you can fill out the form below and send it to Belén Fry of the Miami Valley Life Chapter.)

Thank you for helping us care for your neighbor in this way!

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

## LAMBs – Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets

Do you know a family in your congregation who is having its fourth or more child? Wouldn't it be nice to give them a homemade blanket in celebration of this new life? Simply fill out this form and the Miami Valley Lutherans For Life Chapter, and other Lutherans from the state of Ohio, will ensure that a blanket made with love will be sent directly to the expectant mother anywhere within the continental United States as well as Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. There are no strings attached. As the Body of Christ, we want to use this as an opportunity to share the mercy that our Savior Jesus Christ first showed us on the cross.

Your Name/Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's & Father's Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Baby's Gender: Boy \_\_\_ Girl \_\_\_

Mother's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

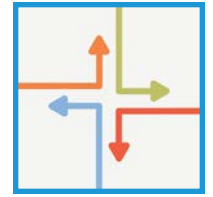


**“He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms”** (Isaiah 40:11a).



# Is Your Life Ministry CAREFUL?

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**“With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything” (Mark 4:33).**

It is amazing how Jesus knew how to deal with every situation with such ease and wisdom. That perfection is worthy of imitating, even though we will never be perfect. Jesus used parables when He spoke with people so they could easily relate and understand. He went into greater depth with His disciples, as they were in a place where they could absorb more than the other lay people. This is how your life ministry should also work in your church.

One of the most important reasons for keeping things simple is that we need to be **CAREFUL**. We don't want to overwhelm the people in our churches with the complexity that can come with life issues. They will become disinterested if we are too quick in our presentation of information or throw things at them with too many details. Work at understanding where your people are and how much they already know. Be methodical in your equipping process, especially when an issue is sensitive and sometimes controversial. Grow the message as people start to understand more clearly.

Today, people have been bombarded with politics, the media, and communications that have caused factions and even severed family relationships. The world has focused on humanist elements such as “you have the right” and “whatever makes you feel good.” The morals of our society have moved in a direction that condones things that are contrary to God's Word. Abortion, physician-assisted suicide, cohabitation, gender transitioning—and the list goes on—have become normal and acceptable in our society. Deep down, people may know—and their conscience may tell them—these things are not God-pleasing, but when they practice them, they get an immediate sense that they have solved the problem of the moment, and they feel good about it. (Maybe!) Indeed, those choices may haunt them for decades or even for a lifetime until they receive God's forgiveness when they come to terms with their sin and their need for repentance and God's grace.

Because these lifestyles and behaviors have become acceptable, and everyone may know someone who has participated in these practices, including themselves, sharing information becomes a sensitive issue. The political arena has often made loyalty to parties and candidates superior to what is often right, and thus politics can defy God's Word. Because of this, we always need to be **CAREFUL** in our communication.

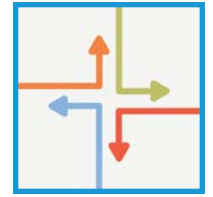
Walking slowly doesn't mean we never address life issues as we must. We simply need to do it in a manner that would be God-pleasing. It means we need to discern where people are and carefully pick our words. Never apologize for sharing God's Word. Never excuse holding or defending a godly position that clearly states how a life issue stands according to Scripture. Abortion is wrong, as is assisted suicide, and many other life issues happening in our world.

Jesus presented His message by fitting the stories to His hearer's experience and maturity. We need to do the same. Do not be afraid to speak the truth but do it in love. Be consistent in your message, and the truth will prevail. God's Word is the ultimate authority. When we refer to it rather than our own understanding, we will find ourselves in a safe place. Continue to pray for discernment and understanding, and God will give you the guidance you need to be **CAREFUL**.



# “I Don’t Understand Why God ...”

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I think all of us, at one time or another—and likely many more than just one time—have said, “I don’t understand why God ...” It’s usually prompted by something like a natural disaster which sweeps away homes and leaves survivors traumatized. It might be something more personal: disappointment over a prayer not answered in the way you hoped, serious illness, loss of a job, the death of a loved one. We don’t understand. It doesn’t make sense to our way of thinking for a loving God to let this happen.

Satan would like us to conclude that because we don’t understand, God must be in the wrong. He must not be all-powerful, wise, and loving. Otherwise, He would see things as we do and always do what we want Him to. “I don’t understand!” is then an accusation directed toward God.

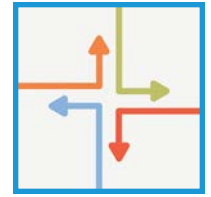
However, “I don’t understand” can also be an expression of humble faith. We don’t always understand God’s reasons for His actions in the direction of the world or for us as individuals and families. But faith doesn’t demand it or expect it. If we with our sinful reason could understand everything about God, what kind of God would He be? He would be no better than we are. St. Paul freely acknowledged that he couldn’t grasp everything about God and His ways. But rather than make it an accusation, he turned it into praise: **“Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? ... For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever!”** (Romans 11:33-36).

The next time you find yourself saying, “I don’t understand why God ...,” praise Him. Thank Him for His ways and thoughts which are so much higher than ours. Praise Him for His love. It is beyond our rational understanding that the holy God would love the unlovable even to the point of punishing His only begotten Son to save us. Since He did that for us, how can we doubt His loving purposes even in those things which we can’t understand? In all things He promises, **“I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”** (Jeremiah 29:11).

(Source: [www.redeemerclc.info/ministries](http://www.redeemerclc.info/ministries))



# Life Project: It's Movie Night!



*This project is shared by the Life Team at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Denver, Colorado.*

Grab some popcorn ... it's movie night! The Life Team at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Denver, Colorado, hosted a Movie Night in April 2023. Church members had seen the movie, *Lifemark*, at a conference and were so moved and impressed by its message, they decided to hold a public viewing event at their church. *Lifemark* is based on a true story about an adopted young man of eighteen who begins the search for his biological parents ([lifemarkmovie.com](http://lifemarkmovie.com)). The Life Team hosted the viewing of the movie and provided pizza, drinks, and dessert. They offered free babysitting so more parents could attend. They widely publicized the event beforehand throughout their chapter churches and were blessed when 65 people attended, including four children.



If you are interested in holding a movie night or nights, here are some things to consider:

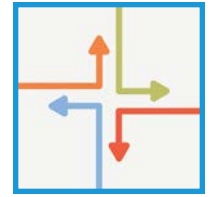
1. Speak to your pastor(s) *first*. They should be a part of the decision as to whether this is a project for a one-time event or a continuing event. They should also be involved in the decision to choose the movie presented.
2. Research several movies for ideas. Ask others in your church(es) what movies appealed to them and why. Confirm the list with your pastor(s).
3. Line up volunteers to do the publicity, snacks, babysitting, etc. several weeks in advance so everyone knows exactly what needs to be done and by what date.
4. Consider pairing the movie night with a program at a different time, such as a speaker or a Bible study, to investigate the topic further. Lutherans For Life has excellent resources about many life issues that could be used to increase knowledge about a topic after introducing it in the movie.
5. Trinity Lutheran Church, Blanco, Texas, has been having a Thursday night movie night for two years or more. Popcorn and fellowship are an integral part of the evening, and a wide variety of Christian-messaged movies have been shown—both stand-alone movies and series.

Regardless of the movie you choose, consider a movie night to be a chance for your church members to celebrate life together—to laugh, to eat, to cry, to discuss life issues, or just to enjoy being together. The Body of Christ needs to hang out together to really get to know one another. A movie night is a great chance to do that! Lights ... camera ... action ...





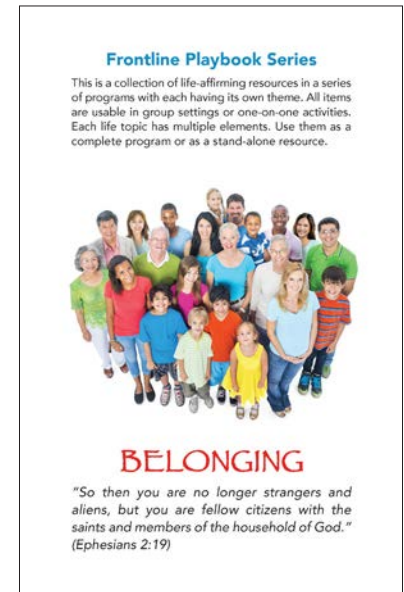
# The Belonging Frontline Playbook Is LIVE



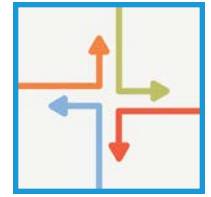
All the resources for the *Belonging Frontline Playbook* are on our website ready to use. If you need quick access and don't have the link in front of you, the entire Playbook series, as we develop it, will be on the Frontline tab of our website. Please go there and open the resource, including the videos, at [lutheransforlife.org/frontline-playbook-belonging](http://lutheransforlife.org/frontline-playbook-belonging).

We have distributed the printed booklet containing the *Belonging Frontline Playbook* project to our Frontline leaders. If you haven't received a copy and would like one, you can download it on the website in either a printable format or a single-page format. If you would like us to mail you a printed copy for yourself or your team, please let us know by emailing [info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org) or contact the Volunteer Relations Team ([lutheransforlife.org/volunteer-relations](http://lutheransforlife.org/volunteer-relations)) or call our office at 888.364.LIFE (5433) or 515.382.2077. Here is some additional insight into how you might consider using the resources provided:

- **Belonging** – Each of the four topical selections shares content relative to Belonging. In life, having a sense of belonging is extremely important and valuable to everyone, as being part of God's family of believers is a gift God has provided to us. Using these resources can help you in your life ministry to equip the people you serve in both feeling a sense of belonging and sharing that important gift with others.
- **Video** – Each of the four videos has been repurposed from existing popular presentations. They have been edited to fit a format that will work in a presentation setting with a presenter and the audience you invite to view. The audience can be small, like a life group meeting, or large, like a Bible class or special event. The videos can all be played from YouTube by clicking the link. You can copy the link in YouTube and play directly from there when you show it.
- **Devotions** – Each of the topical groups has a devotion you can use when opening your event or showing a video. They are an excellent way of starting with a short study of God's Word relative to the topics.
- **Fact Sheets** – These are very helpful resources in sharing factual information about the life topic. Hand these out to people as they arrive or at some time during your event. They can be used as conversation starters if you have discussion time. They will be very helpful in creating awareness about the life topic and will give people good information to take home and refer to at some time in the future as they think about what they learned at your event.
- **Activity Sheets** – We all know how important hands-on projects are in the learning process. Giving people hands-on projects can be very useful and uplifting as they feel engaged in learning and sharing. These activities can be done at your event, as an activity preparing for the event, or as a post-event means of review and engagement to help emphasize what they learned about the life topic.
- **Timing** – When the Frontline Playbook concept was developed, it was done with the goal of providing flexibility and consistency in the resources provided. There are four topics. You could



do all four over a period of time, be it four weeks for a month, one a month, one every quarter, or whatever seems appropriate for the church you serve. You can also pick one and just use that, keeping the rest for a future opportunity. If you only use one, that in itself is a great possibility.



- **In-Person or Online** – Depending on how tech savvy your congregation is, you surely could promote a life topic for the month or whatever interval you choose and provide the video link with downloadable resources. Work with your church technology experts on the possibilities. Download the PDFs from our website and make them available on your church website. There are many possibilities. Of course, doing in-person events is also a plus, as it adds the element of fellowship and discussion. We leave this to your creativity as we hopefully have given you many options.
- **What Are the Topics?** – Here is a brief overview of the four topics we selected in the *Belonging Frontline Playbook*. They don't need to be used in this order. Select and rearrange them in the order you choose that works best for your environment. We pray these bring inspiration as they each deal with important issues that touch people's lives every day. We hope they will bring hope and comfort and above all a sense of belonging.

**Blessed as a Gift** – Rev. Michael Salemink, LFL's Executive Director, shares the Gospel motivation that makes the Lutheran voice on the sanctity of life so distinct. He touches on creation and identity, surprise pregnancy, developmental and intellectual disabilities, and the unborn. He shares our Christian response from God's Word as we are fearfully and wonderfully made, created by God, showing that life is precious.

**God Chose You to Belong** – Michelle Bauman, LFL's Director of Y4Life, shares insights on marriage and family and divorce, cohabitation, contraception, infertility and barrenness, and adoption and foster care. She shares our Christian response not to conform to the world but do good to everyone, celebrate the gift of life, and treat others the way you want to be treated as Christ has treated us.

**People with Disabilities Are Indispensable** – Mona Fuerstenau, Disability Advocate, and Rev. Scott Licht, LFL's COO/CFO, share how those with disabilities are indeed indispensable. They point out that disability issues are unique, as they are not all identical, and experiences are as different as the individuals who experience them. Our Christian response focuses on loving our neighbor through inclusion and building friendships, respecting each person by addressing them directly, and recognizing we live in a broken world, and that through sin, we are all affected, not just those with diagnosed or visible disabilities.

**Blessed in Longing** – Rev. Steven and Stephanie Cholak, pastor and teacher at Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, Houston, Texas, share their experiences of being barren through 18 years of marriage and continuing to be blessed by God in marriage and service. They share their Christian response in waiting for the Lord, crying aloud for the Lord who hears and comforts, and trusting the Lord will lead the lost and doubting according to the truth of His Word.

We have a God of mercy and comfort that has provided the message and means for us to live in a broken world. The hope we receive from Scripture needs to be shared. Please consider utilizing the *Belonging Frontline Playbook* resources in your life ministry. Also, we invite you to reach out to our Volunteer Relations Team if you have any suggestions or comments. We would love to hear from you.





# 2024 LFL REGIONAL CONFERENCES

**Join Us in 2024!**  
***REGISTRATION IS OPEN!***

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**

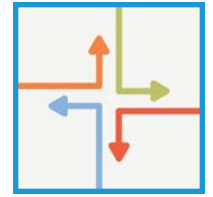
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Winter Garden, Florida (Orlando area)

**[lutheransforlife.org/conferences](https://lutheransforlife.org/conferences)**



# Spotlight on Life

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**Spotlight on Life** ([lutheransforlife.org/spotlight-on-life](http://lutheransforlife.org/spotlight-on-life)) is a focus on featured life topics that can be presented at a local church or community gathering. Lutherans For Life staff are offering to be featured speakers and extend their expertise on the various life topics (see below).

With **Spotlight on Life**, your event will be equipping many others to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. It's simple! You conduct the event, and LFL will provide the speakers, based on availability. The cost will be minimal as we are excited to bring these life-affirming messages to your area. Whether your event is one hour, a half day, an evening, or something else, LFL will be pleased to assist you in planning.

If you are interested, please email [info+spotlight@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info+spotlight@lutheransforlife.org).

## Presentation Topics

### FACTORS AFFECTING LIFE AND DEATH

- Fetal development
- Unplanned pregnancy
- Mental health
- Physical & mental disabilities

### LIFE AND DEATH

- Abortion
- Suicide
- Assisted suicide & euthanasia
- Fertilization to forever

### FACTORS REGARDING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

- For-Life apologetics
- Human-trafficking
- Sexuality & gender
- Family



# LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

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





# Lutherans For Life • Life Team Tools Order Form 2024

**LIFE TEAM TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY FROM THE LFL NATIONAL OFFICE.**

Lutherans For Life • 1101 5th Street • Nevada, IA 50201-1816 • 888.364.LIFE (5433)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Ship to (if different):**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM #	QTY.	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TOTAL
LTTDVDR		Life Team Tool DVD Replacement: (Circle) 1 2 3 4	\$10	
LTTBN		<b>LIFE TEAM TOOL BUNDLE</b> (Includes tools 1-4 and field manuals)	\$30	
			<b>TOTAL</b>	
			<b>SHIPPING</b>	\$15
			<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	

LFL Business Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. CST/CDT. Hours subject to staff availability.

**Are you purchasing this for a church? Please list name and address:**

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD:**



Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Month / Year

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**You may also purchase Life Team Tools by credit card by calling 888.364.LIFE (5433).**

**TOOL 1**  
Life Team Introduction and Roadmap

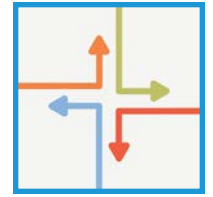
**TOOL 2**  
Life Team Leader Training

**TOOL 3**  
Life Team 101

**TOOL 4**  
Resource Disc



# Owen's Mission



**"A PERSON'S  
A PERSON,  
NO MATTER  
HOW SMALL"  
-DR. SEUSS**

Horton the elephant was right! The Bible agrees! In fact, the Bible says more: A person's a person created by God (Psalm 139:13-14), a person redeemed by Jesus (Galatians 3:13), and a person the Holy Spirit wants to call to be His child (1 Timothy 2:4), *no matter how small!*

Owen's Mission is a very special project of Lutherans For Life. The goal of this project is to honor Jesus by presenting a set of *Touch of Life* fetal models to every Lutheran elementary and high school in the country. We want students to understand the God-given value of each life from the moment of conception. We want students to be motivated by what God has done as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier that gives value to life. We want students to value themselves and to value others as persons because of this God-given value.



Where did Owen's Mission come from? From a very small and special baby named Owen. Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life, shares his story:

"I held my little grandson Owen in the palm of my hand. He died at 21 weeks during prenatal surgery to remove a large tumor. The nurse brought him to our son as we waited in the recovery room for Owen's mother. I find it difficult to describe what I felt when I was able to hold him. I had held the 20-week *Touch of Life* fetal model in my hands hundreds of times in front of students from preschoolers to seminarians. Holding Owen revived in me the reality behind those models. I will never hold them in the same way again."



As Owen's grandpa, Dr. Lamb wanted to do something special to remember Owen, honor Jesus, and help others understand the value God gives to even the smallest of lives. With the help of Owen's family, *Owen's Mission* was born. We are training facilitators to present these fetal model sets along with a DVD message from Dr. Lamb.

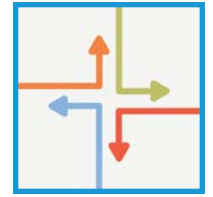
**You can support Owen's Mission by encouraging your Lutheran elementary or high school to have an Owen's Mission presentation! Call 888.364.LIFE (5433) or email [info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org).**

[lutheransforlife.org/owens-mission](http://lutheransforlife.org/owens-mission)



# The Basics of Lutherans For Life

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

**Our Vision:** Every Lutheran congregation upholding the God-given value of human life and influencing society to do the same

## Structure and Relationships

A local Life Chapter is a local organization that has been chartered by National Lutherans For Life. The Life Chapter is formally associated with and subject to, but not a part of, the corporation known as Lutherans For Life, Inc.

A Life Team is a group of dedicated church members forming a For Life group within one congregation to serve under the auspices of the local congregation.

A Life Advocate is an individual working to support the church's pastor in keeping the flow of educational information in front of the congregation on a regular basis. *Life Teams and Life Advocates do not qualify for the remittance program.*

A State Federation is an organization that has been chartered by Lutherans For Life, Inc., in a state where there are at least five chartered Life Chapters. In a state where a State Federation exists, the Life Chapters also become affiliated with the State Federation. This occurs automatically at the same time a Life Chapter becomes chartered by Lutherans For Life, Inc. These relationships are basically the same whether or not the Life Chapter is incorporated. Thus, Lutherans For Life consists of a network of individual entities formally associated with each other.

## Membership Information

All officers of State Federations and Life Chapters and Life Advocates must be members in good standing of Lutheran congregations and members of National Lutherans For Life. Membership contributions are divided among the national organization, State Federation, and local Life Chapter if it is chartered.

Life Chapters that wish to include a membership form in newsletters or correspondence are asked to maintain the form and information provided by the national office. The local Life Chapter may not establish its own membership program since LFL has a "unified membership" program. When sending a membership form to the national office, make sure the Life Chapter name and number, if chartered, is written on the form in the space provided. This will ensure that the State Federation and local Life Chapter receive the proper remittance payment.

## Membership Classifications

### *Annual Membership*

- Annual members join by making a membership donation accompanied by a completed copy of the membership form (or by joining online).

### *Sponsor Membership*

- Sponsor members pledge to contribute a certain amount each month and to pray regularly for Lutherans For Life.
- Sponsor members receive a monthly letter from the executive director.
- Sponsor members are asked to renew their monthly pledge each year as part of the annual membership drive.

## The Remittance Program of LFL

All MEMBERSHIP donations are shared with the chartered State Federation and/or local Life Chapter to which the particular members may belong. The membership donations are divided as follows:

### *Annual Memberships:*

- 20% goes to the local Life Chapter (If there is no local Life Chapter, this 20% goes to the State Federation.)
- 20% goes to the State Federation
- 60% remains at national

### *Sponsor Memberships:*

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



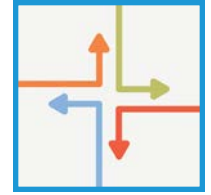
## National Lutherans For Life Staff

Rev. Michael W. Salemink – Executive Director  
Rev. Scott Licht – CFO/COO  
Lowell J. Highby – Director of Communications  
Michelle Bauman – Director of Y4Life  
Cori Meier – Y4Life Assistant  
Diana Ladislas – Y4Life Media Resource Assistant  
Virginia Flo – Director of Volunteer Relations  
Michele Hartshorn – Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations  
Dr. Barb Geistfeld – Volunteer Relations Associate  
Dave Probst – Director of Development  
Kevin Nessa – Development Assistant  
Jerilyn Richard – Donor Relations Director  
Kim Nessa – Business Director/Accountant  
Jan Nessa – Administrative Assistant  
Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, PsyD – Director of Word of Hope  
Deaconess Janet Nicol – Phone Counselor  
Lorelei Humphrey – Word of Hope Assistant  
Erika Peterson – Events Coordinator  
Katie Friedrich – Gift Entry Specialist  
Julie Kyrola – Data Assistant

## National LFL Board of Directors

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Rev. Byrene K. Haney, Vice President – Fort Dodge, Iowa  
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## State Federation Presidents

Rev. David Bottorff, Illinois – Bourbonnais  
Daniel Lindemeier, Iowa – Ames  
Rev. Michael Brockman, Kansas – Oakley  
Rev. Paul Clark, Michigan – Fowler  
Mike Albers, Missouri – St. Louis  
Berniece Stulc, Montana – Belgrade  
Bob Saeger, Nebraska – Waco  
Rev. Dennis Norby, North Dakota – Valley City  
Jill Johnsen, South Dakota – Wessington

**Lutherans For Life**  
**1101 5<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Nevada, IA 50201-1816**

[info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org)  
[lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)  
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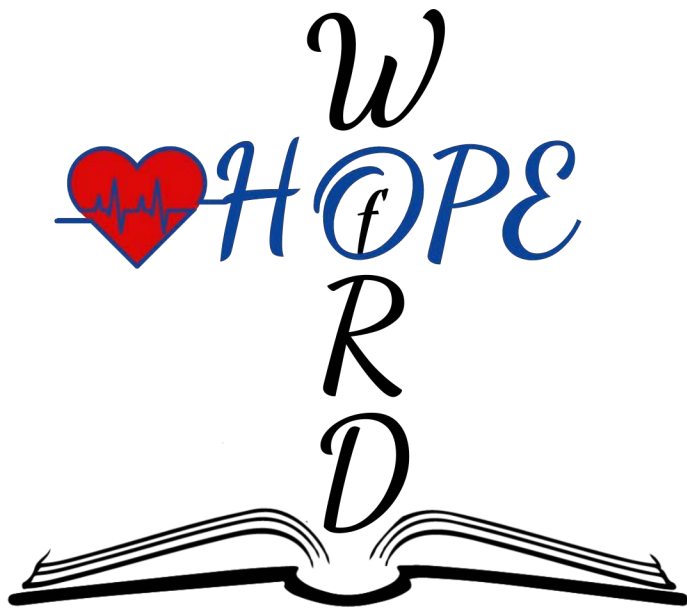
**Since 1973: 64,443,118 abortions in America**

Source: [www.lifenews.com/2023/01/09/64443118-babies-have-been-killed-in-abortions-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973](http://www.lifenews.com/2023/01/09/64443118-babies-have-been-killed-in-abortions-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973)

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For those who have had an abortion—  
there is a **Word of Hope** for  
broken hearts.

Call 888.217.8679 or go to  
[www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org).

**Word of Hope** is confidential and  
caring.

**Word of Hope** is a ministry of  
Lutherans For **Life**.

## I'm **4Life** ... Now what?



Become a **Y4Life** Messenger • [y4life.org](http://y4life.org)

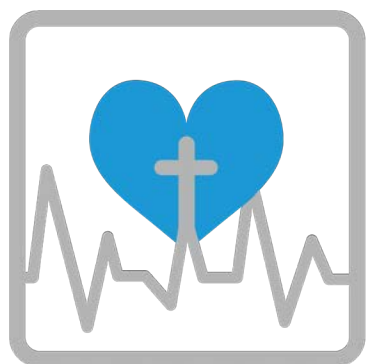


# Helping You Connect God's Word to Life Issues!

[lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)



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



**LUTHERANS**  
**FOR LIFE**