



## FROM AGE TO AGE THE SAME ...

by LFL President Lynette Auch

**Y**ou “have been borne by me from before your birth, carried from the womb; even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save” (Isaiah 46:3b-4 ESV).

As I considered this Scripture and Lutherans For Life’s 40th Anniversary theme, **From Age to Age the Same**, the sovereignty of God kept echoing in my mind. There is absolutely nothing that happens in the universe that is outside of God’s influence and authority. God has no limitations.

“Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out” (Romans 11:33).

“Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you” (Jeremiah 32:17).

We live in a depraved world and society that smell of death. If allowed, this smell may consume our lives, enslave us, and, perhaps, even become our gods. As the First Commandment instructs, our Heavenly Father does not take kindly to His children putting anything before Him.

We have now observed over 40 years of life-affirming work through the ministry of Lutherans For Life! We may wonder ... have we and are we making a difference?

YES, we are making a difference!

We may never really know whose life, or how many lives, have been touched by the Gospel and the For Life message through our efforts, but God does!

At 88 years of age, Dr. Jean Garton, the first president of LFL, had devoted over 47 years of her life traveling and speaking the “For Life” message. Why? In her words, “Once your eyes are open to the tragedy of abortion, you cannot ‘unsee.’”

We have been called to be salt and light by Jesus Himself, and Jean Garton had learned from Jesus that, “Christianity is not a spectator sport.”

Participation in life-affirming work is proof that we cannot “unsee” the tragedies of abortion and its related tentacles of death. We just cannot be spectators in this game of life. Instead, we must choose to be **Champions for Life!**

When we abide in the love of the Heavenly Father and allow Him to be the God of our lives, the enemy will flee—we will find peace and freedom. In that peace and freedom, we can be **Champions for Life**. As **Champions for Life**, passionate about defending God’s gift of life and speaking the saving grace of Jesus Christ, the stench of death will be overcome by the sweet fragrance of Christ.

Heavenly Father – Help us find ways to demonstrate and speak life, hope, and love to a world in desperate need of the saving grace of your Son. Use us to spread the fragrance of Christ to all we meet. Amen.



# FROM AGE TO AGE THE SAME ...

## From Pastor Michael Salemink

The LORD be with you! Thank you for your Gospel-motivated voices in 2019. Thank you especially for your support, encouragement, and fellowship as Lutherans For Life. In 2019, you helped us reach many with courage and compassion, and God employed it all in changing hearts and saving lives. We motivated, educated, and activated hundreds from coast to coast at our six regional conferences. We engaged thousands with our displays and presentations at church-body conventions, educator convocations, and youth gatherings. We delivered dozens of Life Sunday sermons, led scores of Bible studies and school chapel services, hosted classroom presentations, and held community workshops. We launched web pages dedicated to information about vaccines involving aborted fetal tissue and reflections on the film *Unplanned*. We welcomed a new Y4Life Director and a new Mission and Ministry Director. We established new Life Chapters and new Life Teams. We received grant funding from LWML (\$30,000!) for developing and distributing digital content (podcasts, webinars, videos, graphics, social media posts). We did it with responsible and accountable stewardship, beating our budget—thanks to the grace of God and the generosity of thousands like you! And we have much more underway for 2020 (website redesign, new bulletin inserts, booklets and brochures, publicity campaign for **Word of Hope**, Life Sunday congregational resources, and quarterly journal *LifeDate*)!

## 2019 LFL Regional Conferences

For our 2019 regional conferences, we found ourselves all across the country engaging with many LFL friends and finding many new ones. There are so many people who support life, and it is a joy to be able to come to your neighborhoods and share encouragement and information in order to assist you in your life-affirming work. Lives are being touched every day when people share the For Life message of God's love for life. We want to especially thank the members and staff at Living Word Lutheran Church, Grapevine, Texas; Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Hope Lutheran Church, Aurora, Colorado; Trinity Lutheran Church, Rochester, Minnesota; Trinity Lutheran Church, Joppa, Maryland; and West Portal Lutheran Church, San Francisco, California, who opened their doors and hearts for our regional conferences. What a joy it was to work with the members of these congregations and our local Life Chapters and Life Teams. The Lord blessed the efforts

of these faithful stewards For Life, and we at LFL are so very appreciative as without them these conferences would not be possible.



## Life Teams/Life Chapters/Mission and Ministry

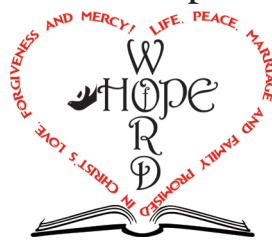
Praise be to God for our wonderful volunteers! Because of you, we can assuredly say that 2019 proved to be another life-affirming, Christ-centered year at Lutherans For Life. Our **Life Teams** and **Life Chapters** continued to

proclaim the worth that every person has on account of what Christ did for them on the cross, and Lutherans throughout the country continued to show mercy to “the least of these” through their faithful, Gospel-motivated service. We can rejoice that seven new Life Teams were formed in Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, and New York, and two Life Chapters were formed in Kansas. Also, 50 Life Team Tool Kits were sold in 23 different states which will undoubtedly lead to more Frontline groups forming in 2020. Thank you for your continued commitment to our organization by sharing Christ in the life arena!

## Life Sunday and Other New Resources

New resources offered in 2019: **From Age to Age the Same** Life Sunday materials (bulletin insert, *Just For Kids* insert, sermons, and service); the brochures *Jesus Loves Me and those with Down syndrome* and *A look at what Lutherans For Life is all about* (an in-house promotional brochure); and new bulletin inserts: *Ascension Means His Grace Goes Everywhere* (for Ascension Day) and *Redeemed* (for Christmas).

## Word of Hope



In 2018, **Word of Hope** received \$59,586.58 in LWML District biennium grants along with \$15,000.00 in grants from the Roy and Ingaborg Memorial Endowment Foundation and the Rupert Dunklau Foundation,

which permitted Chrissie to promote **Word of Hope** at conferences, conventions, church rallies, and Bible studies throughout 2019. This financial support funded the development and mailing of 271 **Word of Hope** info packets to Life Teams and Life Chapters, LWML Districts, District Life Coordinators, LFL Federation Presidents, and selected **Word of Hope** donors.

**Our Mission: Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.**

# FROM AGE TO AGE THE SAME ...

The increased promotion through presentations, exhibits, and mailings significantly impacted the number and types of contacts to **Word of Hope**. In 2018, Chrissie started out receiving approximately three (3) calls a month. As a result of direct promotion, the average rose to one (1) contact a day and those contacts began to include phone calls, emails, text messages, and video sessions. By the end of 2019 and continuing into January of 2020, **Word of Hope** contacts escalated to an average of five (5) per day. Whenever possible, **Word of Hope** provided referral resources to callers in need. In a couple cases, however, local referrals were unavailable, and Chrissie was able to offer video or phone sessions for abortion recovery from a Lutheran perspective. In 2020, additional Word of Hope hours will be needed.

## Y4Life



**Y4Life** had many opportunities to engage youth and prepare them to share a 4Life message in 2019! We began the year with the March for Life in Washington, D.C., where **Y4Life** partnered with the LCMS to provide youth activities during their biennial life conference. Not only did the **Y4Life** Director Laura Davis enjoy the March, but she was also able to begin celebrating the little life

growing in her own womb! Because she desired to stay at home with her child, a search began for a new **Y4Life**

Director. After many interviews and much prayer, a call was extended to Michelle Bauman, current director of **Y4Life**. In addition to preparing for and training a new director, spring activities included the annual Y4Life College Leadership Retreat. The retreat was attended by students from four Concordias, three of which were already active in life ministries. A busy spring was followed by a whirlwind summer! Full of speaking engagements, exhibits, and many opportunities to interact with youth and supporters of LFL, Y4Life was present at FLY, NYG, Higher Things, and the National LWML Convention. At the LWML Convention, we were able to give thanks for their generous donation to Y4Life, a donation which has helped us expand our ministry to the high school level. The fall was filled with conferences and classroom visits. Y4Life was present at the National LEA Convention and presented at both Beautiful Feet and the Life Symposia at Concordia Portland. These events provided opportunities to dialogue with teachers, college students, and community members about a variety of life issues as well as how to start and maintain Y4Life Teams. Michelle was also able to visit ten Lutheran high schools this fall, many of which now have Y4Life Teams. (See our updated Y4LIFE page for a complete list!) Winter has provided opportunities for writing—check out our new **Y4Life** brochures!—updating social media platforms (Follow us!), and planning for upcoming events. Overall, it has been a year full of opportunities for Y4Life! Thank you for your prayers and financial support. Please continue to pray that the youth of today desire to be Leaders 4Life!

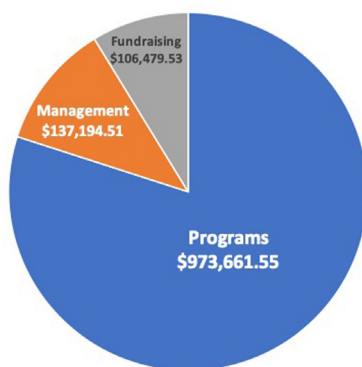
### Income – 2016, 2017, 2018

2016 Income	\$1,142,310
2017 Income	\$1,042,808
2018 Income	\$1,198,301

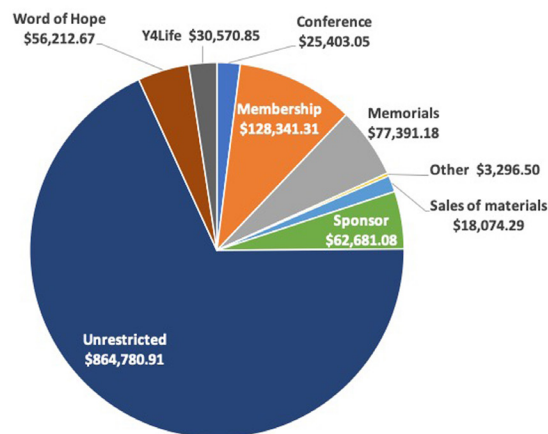
### Expenses – 2016, 2017, 2018

2016 Expenses	\$1,100,316
2017 Expenses	\$1,187,229
2018 Expenses	\$1,151,871

### 2019 Operational and Restricted Expenses



### 2019 Revenue Sources



Beginning with the annual report for 2015, we show income and expenses by both operational and restricted amounts. In previous reports, we grouped operational and restricted income and expenses together. Please contact us if you have any questions.

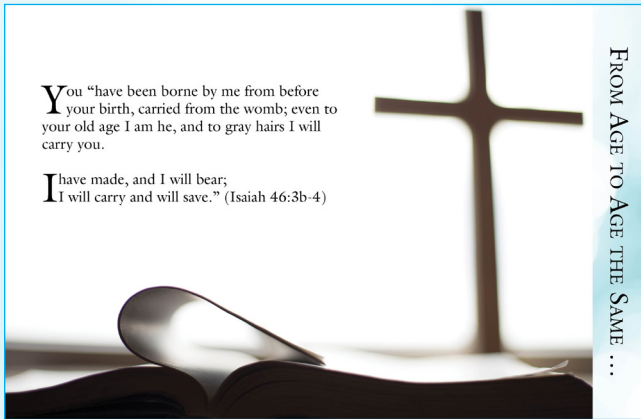
**Our Vision: Every Lutheran, both individually and in community, upholding the God-given value of human life and influencing society to do the same**



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your birth, carried from the womb; even to  
your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will  
carry you.

I have made, and I will bear;  
I will carry and will save." (Isaiah 46:3b-4)

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## 2019 Annual Report

Find out how your much-appreciated gifts  
and support helped LFL equip Lutherans  
to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.  
Your prayers and financial support are important to us!  
[www.lutheransforlife.org/give](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/give)

Lutherans For Life is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and does not receive funds from a specific church body. LFL strives to network pastors and laypeople to make a positive difference in people's lives. By the power of the Holy Spirit, LFL seeks to change hearts and minds through the Word of God.

(Scripture taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.)

### National Lutherans For Life

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Rev. James Beversdorf, Indiana – Valparaiso  
Rev. Rich Salcido, Iowa – Ida Grove  
Jeanne Mackay, Kansas – Lenexa  
Rev. Paul Clark, Michigan – Fowler  
Diane Albers, Missouri – St. Louis  
Helen Lewis, Montana – Great Falls  
Bob Saeger, Nebraska – Waco  
Rev. Chris Brademeyer, North Dakota – Oakes  
Kimberlea Lessman, South Dakota – Plankinton  
Rev. Doug Reinders, Wisconsin – Fremont

#### National LFL Board of Directors

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Deaconess Tiffany Manor – Bedford, Massachusetts  
Diana Vaughn – Ponca City, Oklahoma

#### National LFL Office Staff

Rev. Michael W. Salemink – *Executive Director*  
Rev. Scott Licht – *National Director*  
Lowell J. Highby – *Director of Communications*  
Rev. Jeff Duncan – *Mission and Ministry Director*  
Michelle Bauman – *Director of Y4Life*  
Jerilyn Richard – *Data Analyst*  
Kim Nessa – *Accountant*

Debra Freese – *Office Clerk*  
Katie Friedrich – *Office Assistant*  
Virginia Flo – *Regional Director (Minnesota) & National Conference Director*  
Dr. Barbara Geistfeld – *Regional Director (Texas)*  
Dcs. Chrissie Gillet, PsyD – *Director of Word of Hope*

#### Lutherans For Life Outreach Team

Rev. Dr. Dennis Di Mauro, *National Pro-Life Religious Council Representative*, Herndon, Virginia  
Rev. Don Richman, *International Representative*, Bloomington, Minnesota

**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.