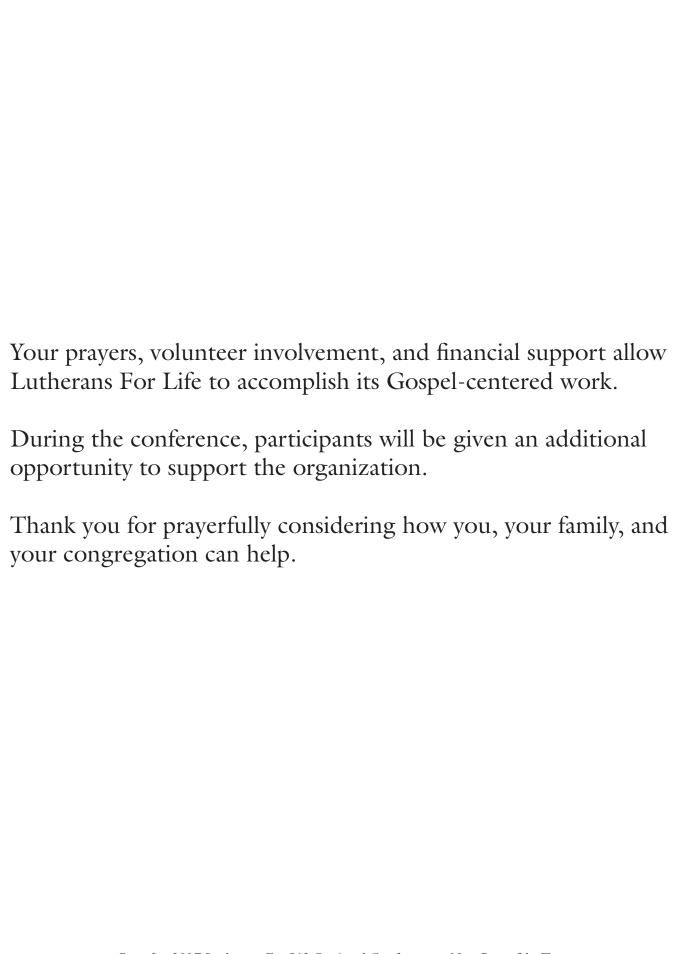


# Lutherans For Life Regional Conference October 7, 2017

Cross Lutheran Church New Braunfels, Texas

www.lutheransforlife.org

"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 ..." (1 Peter 3:15)





# A Word From Our President

A hearty welcome and thank you for attending this 2017 Lutherans For Life Regional Conference!

We are so excited to be offering regional conferences this year. It is a new direction for LFL in our mission of **equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life!** A tremendous amount of work and planning has gone into these conferences designed to bring wonderful speakers to learn from and great fellowship to encourage.

As we near the sunset of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Reformation and have reflected upon the example of the great reformer Martin Luther to "stand firm" on the promises found in God's Word, we find renewed strength and "Hope For Life."

"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 ..." (1 Peter 3:15)

#### HOPE

What is hope? A biblical definition of "hope" could be "confident expectation." I really like that definition of hope. God's Word assures us of our eternal salvation through the selfless, loving sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus Christ. Whatever the journey in this life manages to throw at us, we can live with "confident expectation" that our future is secure. We have this **hope for life!** 

I cannot wait to hear what messages of hope our line-up of speakers will have for us! I have this "confident expectation" that God will truly bless us through their Holy Spirit-led messages, helping us to be better equipped Gospel-motivated voices for life!

Living in "confident expectation" while serving the Lord of Life with you,

Lynette Auch

President

## 2017 Lutherans For Life Regional Conference Agenda Cross Lutheran Church • New Braunfels, Texas Saturday, October 7, 2017

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	REGISTRATION
9:00 a.m. – 9:25 a.m.	Opening/Welcome – Rev. Donald Fraker II  Devotion, singing, housekeeping update
9:25 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	LFL Update
9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Plenary #1 – Laura Davis – "Defusing the Tension: Revealing the Heart of the Abortion Debate"
10:20 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	BREAK
10:40 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.	LFL Update
10:55 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Plenary #2 – Dr. Barbara Geistfeld – "Life a Gift from God" on the developing human being
11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Essay Contest Presentations
12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.	LUNCH & Visit Exhibits
12:50 p.m. – 12:55 p.m.	LFL Update
12:55 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	<b>Plenary #3</b> – Dr. Sheila Page – "Pain Perception in the Developing Human"
1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	BREAK
2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.	Plenary #4 – Rev. Dr. Laurence White on life issues and the church
2:50 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	BREAK
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Plenary #5 &amp; Closing</b> – Rev. Michael Salemink – "Standing Out in the Life Field" – How to be a life-minded congregation and community

## **Conference Speakers and Topics**



# Laura Davis Director of Y4Life

Laura Davis joined the Lutherans For Life national staff in June 2012. She is the daughter of a Lutheran pastor and a Lutheran preschool teacher from Katy, Texas. She received a Bachelor of Arts in history from Texas A&M University in 2010 and a Master of Public Service and Administration at A&M's Bush School of Government and Public Service in 2012 with an emphasis on nonprofit management. She completed an internship at a pregnancy resource center in Lynnwood, Washington, and has previously served on the Lutherans For Life National Board of Directors. She currently resides in Edmonds, Washington.

#### Conference Topic: "Defusing the Tension: Revealing the Heart of the

**Abortion Debate"** – When the topic of abortion is brought up in conversation, there are usually strong emotions and opinions on both sides. Because of this, it is important to be able to understand why people believe what they believe about this issue and the perspectives that determine their arguments. This workshop will help students and adults alike identify the reason behind the rhetoric and turn what is often a frustrating debate into a productive conversation and an opportunity to share Christ's love.



#### Dr. Barbara Geistfeld LFL Regional Director of Texas

Dr. Barbara Lane Geistfeld and her husband, Dr. James Geistfeld, are "Texans by Choice" after retiring to the Hill Country in 2008. Barb retired from owning a small animal veterinary hospital, and Jim retired from his job as a board-certified laboratory animal veterinarian for Taconic Biosciences. They have a son and daughter-in-law, two granddaughters, and a daughter and son-in-law. Barb has been a donor to Lutherans For Life for over 40 years and has been a consistent voice For Life in the various churches she has attended over the years. Raised in the First Church of God; confirmed by faith into the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS); active in an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) congregation in New York; and now a member of a thriving, Christ-centered Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) congregation, Barb believes these different churches have shaped her faith and reaffirmed a profound desire to be a voice for life. She values life at all stages and ages. She has taught teens and adults for many

years and has given LFL presentations at Texas District LCMC conventions and several churches. Prior to accepting the position of Lutherans For Life Regional Director of Texas, she was a certified co-leader of the Life Team at the church she attends. Barb believes her medical background and her firm belief that we are to be "Gospel-motivated voices For Life" equips her to help others create healthy Life Teams that will become voices for Life in Texas.

**Conference Topic:** "Life ... a Gift from God" – Christians have traditionally valued life as a gift from God, but what does that mean? When does life start? What does it mean to be "Gospel-motivated voices for Life"? How do we address the dozens of life issues that surround all of us in our daily lives? Dr. Barbara Lane Geistfeld, Lutherans For Life Regional Director of Texas, wants to help you answer these

### **Conference Speakers and Topics**

questions. Her presentation takes us on a visual journey from conception to natural death and addresses issues that face every one of us: young or old, retired or working, man or woman, parent or grandparent, husband or wife, single or married. We live in a worldwide culture of death. How can Christians speak up for life with Gospel-motivated, loving voices? How can we be active forces for God's precious gift of life in our churches and communities? Come and see!!



#### Dr. Sheila Page

Dr. Sheila Page is board certified in neuromusculoskeletal medicine and osteopathic manipulative therapy. She treats a wide spectrum of patients from the newborn to the elderly, including patients with irreversible and terminal illness. Dr. Page has a special interest in children with disabilities, particularly those whose burden of care is difficult and who have been given little hope for a better quality of life. "The care and protection of the most vulnerable among us is a responsibility I take personally. I am especially interested in treating difficult illnesses, offering a chance for healing and comfort to those who have lost hope. I am a strong advocate of fostering the individual doctorpatient relationship and preserving the integrity of medicine."

The impact of politics on the medical profession and the physician-patient relationship has been a recent focus of Dr. Page's efforts. Her interests include policy related to independent physician practices, access to care, charitable care, and sanctity-of-life issues.

Dr. Page is an associate scholar with the Charlotte Lozier Institute and a board member of Lutherans For Life. She serves on the advisory council of Grace House Ministries. She also serves on multiple committees for the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association and is a member of the board of trustees of TOMA. She is founding chair of the Fort Worth Osteopathic Study Group. Dr. Page received her Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine from the University of North Texas Health Science Center, College of Osteopathic Medicine, in 1992, during which she completed an additional year of training as an undergraduate teaching fellow, specializing in osteopathic manipulative therapy.

Following an internship at Northeast Community Hospital, Dr. Page practiced family medicine for seven years while working on her board certification in neuromusculoskeletal medicine. She has been practicing and developing her skills in that specialty for 23 years and currently has a private solo practice serving the Fort Worth area. Dr. Page works on referrals by word of mouth only and makes house calls for patients with advanced disabilities.

She graduated with a B.S. in biochemistry at Texas A&M University in 1986 and then spent a year doing cancer research at MD Anderson Research Center in Smithville, Texas. She continued to do cell biology research while in medical school and has several scientific publications. Her most recent publication was "The Neuroanatomy and Physiology of Pain Perception in the Developing Human," *Issues in Law and Medicine*, Fall 2016. Sheila has been married for 26 years to Ray Page, D.O., Ph.D., oncologist, and has five children, ages 11-24, whom she has primarily homeschooled. She lives in Aledo, Texas, and is active in St. Paul Lutheran Church. She has donated services to the Sudanese refugees who are living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. She loves gardening in her spare time.

Conference Topic: "Pain Perception in the Developing Human" – Much of the discussion about abortion in recent years has involved the question of whether the unborn child is capable

## **Conference Speakers and Topics**

of feeling pain. This human perspective is a helpful argument for protecting unborn children from the suffering inflicted by abortion techniques. The evidence provided by the fetus itself leaves little doubt as to the sensitivity of the developing human to its environment. We have a duty as a civil society to protect these helpless babies from harm.



#### Rev. Dr. Laurence White Pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas

Rev. Dr. Laurence L. White has served as senior pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas, since 1981. Rev. White is a regular speaker for national pro-life, pro-family organizations across America, such as James Dobson's Focus on the Family. He has had the opportunity to address millions of Americans through national radio and television broadcasts and has spoken to nearly 20,000 pastors across the nation. Rev. White also serves on the Family Research Council National Advisory Board. In 1997, he was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree by Liberty University of Lynchburg, Virginia, in recognition of his efforts on behalf of the pro-life movement. Rev. White and his wife, Debbie, have been married for 46 years. They have

three grown children and four grandchildren.

Conference Topic: "Life and the Church" – Rev. Dr. White will share his life-affirming message on God's love for Life and how we as Christians can also affirm the message we learn from Scripture on living our lives in God's grace. It isn't always easy to live within God's will when we are bombarded from the world's perspective on using death as a means to solve life's issues. Rev. White will give you a clear perspective on what it means to live in God's will throughout our lives and also be a witness to others.



#### Rev. Michael Salemink Executive Director of Lutherans For Life

Rev. Michael W. Salemink began serving as executive director-elect of Lutherans For Life in August 2015 and became executive director on January 1, 2016. He received a B.A. in theology from Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Illinois, in 1999 and a Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 2003. He has served as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Webster, Minnesota, (2003-2005) and as associate pastor of St. James Lutheran Church and School in Lafayette, Indiana (2005-2015). Rev. Salemink and his wife, Heather, have been married since 2000 and reside in St. Louis, Missouri, where they attend Immanuel Lutheran Church, Olivette, with their three sons: Christian, Nathan, and Luke.

Conference Topic: "Standing Out in the Life Field" will explore why, what, and how Lutheran congregations can speak truth and show love in the context of life issues such as elective abortion, embryodestroying experimentation, and physician-assisted suicide. Rev. Salemink and Lutherans For Life will assist you in finding motivation, getting education, and taking action according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ for respecting, protecting, and serving our neighbors in need.

### **National Essay Contest Winners**

The LFL Council of Federation Presidents (COFP) sponsors an annual essay contest for students in Grades 6-8 and 9-12. A winner for each category is chosen from all participating state entries. Those national winners are asked to share their essay at the LFL Regional and/or National Conferences. They receive a \$250 award as well as free registration, hotel, and a travel stipend. All entries are based on life issues relative to the conference theme and Bible reference. This year's national winners are as follows:



Ellie Nixon is an eighth-grade student at Immanuel Lutheran Church and School in St. Charles, Missouri. Daughter of Jeff and Christine Nixon and big sister to Ian, Ellie brings joy to the people around her through her humor and actions. Ellie is tenderhearted and always open to helping those in need. She is active in church, Sunday school, and youth group and assists in the Connections Cafe, serving and greeting members on Sunday. A fan of art and American history, Ellie also loves playing volleyball, both for her school and club teams, and running track in the spring. Ellie enjoys reading, chorus, exercise, and designing special gifts for friends. The title of Ellie's essay is "God's Plan for Life."



Kenzie Anne Boozikee was born on February 1, 1999, and baptized on March 1 by her great-grandfather, the late Pastor H. H. Schauland, at St. John's Lutheran in Ireton, Iowa. The Boozikee family currently lives in Glencoe, Minnesota. Pastor Dan Welch confirmed Kenzie on April 28, 2013, at First Lutheran in Glencoe. Her parents are Kevin and Sherri Boozikee, who are both graduates of Concordia University Nebraska and both educators. Kenzie has two siblings, Terrin (22), a first-year teacher at New Ulm Middle School, and Kobe (14), a freshman at Glencoe Silver Lake High School. Topping off the family are two dogs, Taz and Turk.

Kenzie attended First Lutheran for pre-school through eighth grade and Mayer Lutheran High School in Mayer, Minnesota, where she graduated in May 2017 with honors. She is currently a freshman at Bethel University in Arden Hills, Minnesota, where she is studying sports psychology and journalism and playing for the Bethel women's soccer team. Kenzie is very active socially, academically, and in church. She attended both the LCMS San Antonio and New Orleans Youth Gatherings and looks forward to serving at the Minnesota Gathering. She is faith-filled with strong beliefs taught by her parents and grandparents, Lutheran teachers, and pastors. She loves the Lord, her church, family, and friends. She is a member of the National Honor Society. She is an enthusiastic writer of essays and poetry. She loves soccer, having been the captain of her high school soccer team and her summer soccer team (Crow River) where she also played indoors. She also coached a summer team of 14-year-old girls. Living in Minnesota, she enjoys both summer and winter fishing. She has also managed a part-time job at Unhinged Pizza.

Kenzie has a toughness, having endured injuries to both her left and right ACLs (knees) in back-to-back years. She had them both reconstructed, endured months of physical therapy, and returned to play soccer through high school and now college. This ordeal has inspired her to want to help other injured athletes "survive" their injuries by using their faith and God-given talents. She participated in the high school choir, has a beautiful voice, and loves to both sing and listen to music. She has lots of energy, loves any kind of physical challenge, and is highly competitive. Her personality unfolds with being a social butterfly with a sense of humor and many friends. She is kindhearted and caring, tough but sensitive. Kenzie owns a contagious giggle known well by family and friends. Her sweet personality is revealed with a sweet tooth for chocolate-frosted donuts.

As her mother shares, "Kenzie has always been our little 'go-getter' and 'fighter' filled with energy and all sorts of love for life. Now that she has chosen to speak publicly about her faith and her beliefs, we as parents are overwhelmed with pride. God had plans for Kenzie before she was even born, and we are just watching them all unfold. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!" The title of her winning essay is "Choosing Life Reflects the God of Life."

### A Special Thank You to ...

- The members of the Houston Life Chapter #132 for helping with conference assignments, promoting the event, and providing video for our Frontline update.
- Pastor Donald Fraker II for his support in providing Cross Lutheran Church as our host congregation and for serving as conference chaplin.
- Lori Miller and her entire Cross Lutheran Hospitality Board in organizing the refreshments and providing the food service, set up, and take down for the conference.
- Cross Lutheran Church LWML Women for the baked goods everyone is enjoying at the conference.
- Joseph Jankauskas for his assistance in providing the audiovisual services necessary for a successful event.
- Pastor Bryce Formwalt, LCMC Texas District Director of Mission Growth, for promoting our conference throughout the Texas LCMC organization.
- LCMS Texas District Office of President Kenneth Hennings for providing publicity throughout the Texas District.
- The LaQuinta Hotel staff for making their accommodations for our travelers special.
- Virginia Flo, LFL National Conference Director and Regional Director of Minnesota, for organizing the conference presenters, location, and conference schedule.
- Dr. Barbara Geistfeld, Texas Regional Director for LFL, for coordinating many of the efforts in making this conference possible, encouraging, and rewarding.
- Hilary Haak, LFL Mission & Ministry Director, for her work with the Frontline, supporting our Life Teams and Life Chapters across the country.
- Laura Davis, LFL Y4Life Director, for her work with youth.
- Lowell Highby, LFL Director of Communications, for promoting and communicating conference details to all of our LFL constituents.
- Chrissie Gillette, LFL Word of Hope Director, for her work in providing counseling and support to those suffering from having had an abortion.
- Jerilyn Richard for maintaining all of the registration information and making sure we were up-to-date and able to stay current with increased interest and participation in this year's conference.
- Debra Freese for her willingness to help wherever needed when our LFL members called the national office for help.
- Rev. Michael Salemink, LFL Executive Director, for his leadership and dedication to For Life work and for his enthusiasm and desire to keep LFL's focus on the many important Life needs.
- Rev. Scott Licht, LFL National Director, for his continued leadership and overall organizational vision, keeping the organization focused and encouraged.
- Lynette Auch, LFL National President, and the entire LFL Board of Directors for their faithful leadership.

- The LFL Council of Federation Presidents who keep LFL active and moving forward in our State Federations and the Frontline.
- Our Life Teams and Life Chapters who work so diligently every day to affirm life in so many God-pleasing ways.
- Our workshop presenters—Laura Davis, Dr. Barbara Geistfeld, Dr. Sheila Page, Rev. Dr. Laurence White, and Rev. Michael Salemink—for their dynamic presentations that are both important to the life issues and inspirational.
- All of our LFL staff that took on many duties at the conference in order to make everyone's visit one to remember.
- All of the exhibitors who make an investment in time and money to share their For Life work.
- KFUO Radio in St. Louis, Missouri, for conducting numerous pre-conference interviews to promote the conference and inform their listeners of the For Life work conducted by Lutherans For Life.
- The members of the Life Chapters who provided video footage to promote the Frontline work of Lutherans For Life.
- Our LFL National Student Essay winners, Ellie Nixon and Kenzie Boozikee, for sharing the faith through their essays For Life.
- All the Life Teams and Life Chapters across the country helping to provide life-affirming
  work in their local communities and promoting our regional conferences to those in their
  surrounding areas.

## Thank You to Our Conference Exhibitors ...

Lutherans For Life www.lutheransforlife.org

Upbring: New Life Children's Center www.upbring.org

Central Texas Life Center www.txlifecare.org

Houston LFL Life Chapter #132 Russ Wernli, President wernlis@sbcglobal.net

## Thank You to Our Conference Sponsors ...

Lutherans For Life of Indiana

Bruce and Cindy Blake in memory of Mike Jolley, a tireless advocate of the unborn

A special thank you to:

Rev. Dr. Jeff and Renee Gibbs

Earl and Joanne Iseler

Patty Hunter

Dale and Diane Wetherell

#### National Lutherans For Life Staff

Rev. Michael W. Salemink – Executive Director
Rev. Scott Licht – National Director
John Hawkins – Director of Development
Lowell J. Highby – Director of Communications
Hilary Haak – Mission and Ministry Director
Laura Davis – Director of Y4Life
Jerilyn Richard – Data Analyst
Kim Nessa – Accountant
Debra Freese – Office Clerk
Katie Friedrich – Office Assistant
Chrissie Gillet, PsyD, Deaconess Intern – Director
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#### **Regional Directors**

Barb Geistfeld, DVM (ret'd), Texas

– Spring Branch

Virginia Flo, Minnesota – Eagan

Virginia also serves as national conference director.

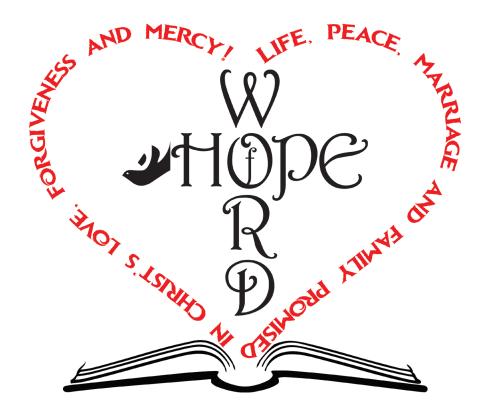
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info@lutheransforlife.org www.lutheransforlife.org 888.364.LIFE (5433) or 515.382.2077

LFL has 11 State Federations, 96 Life Chapters, 110 Life Ministry Coordinators, and 58 Life Teams in the US.

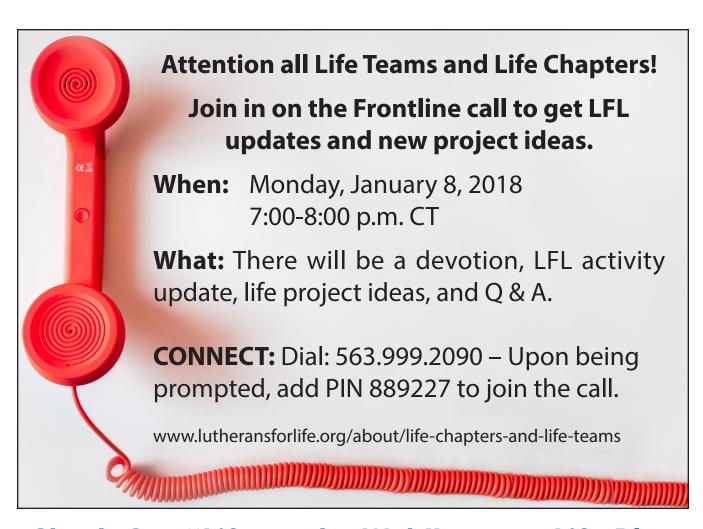


For those who have had an abortion—there is a **Word of Hope** for broken hearts.

Call 888.217.8679 or go to www.word-of-hope.org.

Word of Hope is confidential and caring.

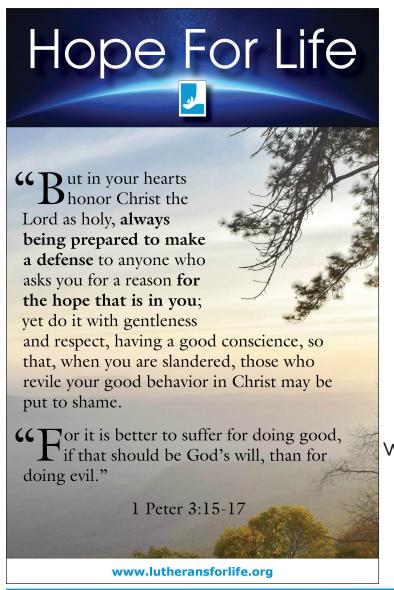
Word of Hope is a ministry of Lutherans For Life.



## Check Out "Life on the Web" on our Life Blog



www.lutheransforlife.org/life-blog

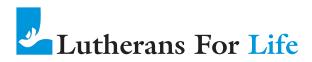


Life Sunday January 21, 2018

Bulletin Inserts
Bible Study
Children's Message
Worship Service
Sermons

www.lutheransforlife.org/ store-life-sunday-2018





Bible-based and Gospel-focused materials for all ages on:

Abortion • Adoption • Bioethics Creation • End of Life Family Living • Post-Abortion Healing Fetal Development • Sexual Purity

Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life

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Mark your calendars ...

2018
Lutherans For Life
National Conference
St. Louis, Missouri
October 12-13



From
Age
to
Age
the
Same

You "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