

# Hope For Life



2017 Lutherans For Life Regional Conferences

Ft. Wayne, Indiana • New Braunfels, Texas • Lincoln, Nebraska • Pekin, Illinois

Lutherans For **Life** Regional Conference

November 11, 2017

St. John's Lutheran Church

Pekin, Illinois

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

Your prayers, volunteer involvement, and financial support allow Lutherans For Life to accomplish its Gospel-centered work.

During the conference, participants will be given an additional opportunity to support the organization.

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you, your family, and your congregation can help.



## *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

## St. John's Lutheran Church • Pekin, Illinois

### Saturday, November 11, 2017

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
9:00 a.m. – 9:25 a.m.	<b>Opening/Welcome</b> (Rev. Daniel Bishop) <i>Devotion, singing, housekeeping update</i>
9:25 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	<b>LFL Update</b>
9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	<b>Plenary #1</b> – Brian Young – “Creation”
10:20 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	<b>BREAK</b>
10:40 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.	<b>LFL Update</b>
10:55 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	<b>Plenary #2</b> – Dr. Sheila Page – “Pain Perception in the Developing Human”
11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Essay Contest Presentations</b>
12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.	<b>LUNCH and VISIT EXHIBITS</b>
12:50 p.m. – 12:55 p.m.	<b>LFL Update</b>
12:55 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	<b>Plenary #3</b> – Kim Laube – “Embryo Adoption”
1:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b>BREAK</b>
2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.	<b>Plenary #4</b> – Sherry Sherwood – “Pregnancy Centers vs. Illinois Law Requiring Abortion Information” and the value of pregnancy centers
2:50 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<b>BREAK</b>
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Plenary #5</b> - Rev. Michael Saleminck – “Standing Out in the Life Field” – How to be a life-minded congregation and community
4:00 p.m.	<b>Closing Prayer</b> – Rev. Daniel Bishop

# Conference Speakers and Topics



**Kim Laube**

**Life Ministries Director for Lutheran Family Service**

Kim Laube earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 1991. Kim has worked in several different capacities, including executive director of Iowans For L.I.F.E., adoption and pregnancy counselor, and Lutheran Family Service Life Ministries Director. All her work has embodied the central notion that all human life is valuable. Kim's work involves both the beginning and end of life's stages. She leads the embryo adoption program at Lutheran Family Service where they advocate for the

lives of embryos who have been created through in vitro fertilization and are cryopreserved. The futures for these embryos are unknown; they are at risk to be killed if other opportunities, like embryo adoption, are not available to them. Kim also works to preserve sanctity at the end of life. She has created programming to discuss the dangers of physician-assisted suicide within congregations in Iowa.

**Conference Topic: "Embryo Adoption"** – Kim will explain how Christian families can impact the lives of tiny little boy and girl embryos, giving them a chance to be born, learn of God's love, and fulfill God's plans for their lives. Embryos created through in vitro fertilization are at risk to be killed. Embryo rescue provides an opportunity for birth for embryos who have been conceived and then cryopreserved. It is estimated that there are over 600,000 embryos cryopreserved in the United States today.



**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 doctor-patient 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.

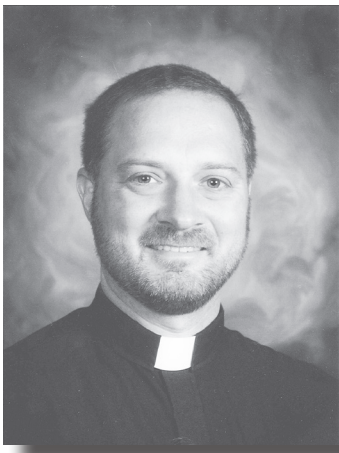
Following an internship at Northeast Community Hospital, Dr. Page practiced family medicine for seven years while working on her board certification in neuromusculoskeletal medicine. She has been practicing

## Conference Speakers and Topics

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 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. 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, embryo-destroying 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.

# Conference Speakers and Topics



## **Sherry Sherwood** **Chief Executive Officer – Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center**

Living Alternatives consists of 12 pregnancy centers in Illinois and Indiana. The organization is committed to saving the lives of unborn children by promoting life-affirming options and providing practical assistance, while sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed and ministering restoration to those who have been wounded by the trauma of abortion. Having worked in the organization since 2004, Sherry has been the director of the Bloomington/Normal Center, vice president of client services, and the CEO since 2009. The mother of three, Sherry currently worships at Pekin

First Nazarene with her husband, Scott.

**Conference Topic: “Pregnancy Centers vs. Illinois Law Requiring Abortion Information” and the value of pregnancy centers** – Being the CEO of 12 pregnancy centers across several states is no small task, yet this is what Sherry Sherwood does on a daily basis. When Illinois passed legislation that required all pregnancy centers to share information about abortion clinics, she and many others stepped up and shifted into gear to find a way to oppose this harmful legislation. She will share with us what has been done and the current status of their actions. The work of all pregnancy centers is vital to curbing the abortion industry, and they fight many obstacles daily in their efforts. This legislation is just one of many hurdles they overcome every hour of every day. Prayer is their biggest weapon as the Lord leads the way for these champions For Life as they help save those precious babies and help the many mothers in need.



## **Brian Young** **Director of Creation Instruction Association**

Brian Young, an internationally known speaker and author, was a teacher and principal for ten years before becoming director of Creation Instruction Association. He has now been speaking on the topic of creation and biblical authority for 20 years, participating in debates at universities; going into prisons; and sharing at churches, schools, and camps around the world. He uses the Bible as the foundation for science and education.

**Conference Topic: “Creation”** – Creation Instruction Association teaches and confesses the inspiration, inerrancy, and authority of the Word of God, not just for theology but for our scientific understanding and morals as well. Science does not interpret Scripture, rather Scripture interprets Scripture. Though we believe the doctrine of creation is important, it is secondary to the Gospel; however, we see the doctrine of creation as a foundation for the Gospel of Christ. We hold to a young earth just a few thousand years old; a global flood of Noah; sin, death, and disease through the curse in the Garden; and salvation through Jesus. We believe all of mankind have sinned, but the Holy Spirit enables the sinner to repent and believe upon Jesus Who was conceived of the virgin Mary, Who was placed on the cross to suffer and die, and Who rose physically from the dead to redeem those who repent and call upon Him. We believe in the Trinity and salvation through Jesus Christ alone and by His grace alone.

# 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 ...

- Rev. Daniel Bishop, pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church, for serving as conference chaplin and conducting opening devotions.
- To the members of St. John's Lutheran Church who provided conference support and for making their wonderful facility available for our conference.
- LCMS Northern Illinois District, President Dan Gilbert; LCMS Central Illinois District, President Mark Miller; and LCMS Southern Illinois District, President Timothy Scharr for providing publicity and support.
- Rachel Keehner for providing the organ music during opening devotions, helping to kick off the event in a worshipful manner as we sing our praises to the God of life.
- Jack Hall for his help in setting up the audio/visual systems for the conference, helping to make all of the presentations possible.
- Deb LaKamp, LFL Illinois State Federation President, for helping to promote and organize this event.
- Peoria Area Life Chapter for providing the continental breakfast at the conference.
- St. John's Ladies Guild for preparing and serving the lunch at the conference.
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Life Team in Collinsville, Illinois, for serving the afternoon snacks.
- Virginia Flo, LFL National Conference Director and Regional Director of Minnesota, for organizing the conference presenters, location, and conference schedule.
- 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, Word of Hope Director, for providing Word of Hope support to those suffering due to an abortion decision.
- Dr. Barbara Geistfeld, LFL Texas Regional Director, for her work in supporting the Frontline Life Teams and Life Chapters.
- 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 being Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

- 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 keeps 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—Brian Young, Dr. Sheila Page, Kim Laube, Sherry Sherwood, and Rev. Michael Salemin— 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.
- KFUE 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 and Life Teams 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 their faith through their essays For Life.
- The Holiday Inn Express staff for helping arrange for hotel rooms for those traveling a distance.

## **Thank You to Our Conference Exhibitors ...**

Lutherans For Life  
[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

Voice of Care  
[voiceofcare.org](http://voiceofcare.org)

Creation Instruction Association  
[www.creationinstruction.org](http://www.creationinstruction.org)

Concordia Publishing House  
[www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org)

Bethesda Lutheran Communities  
[bethesdalutherancommunities.org](http://bethesdalutherancommunities.org)

Lutherans For Life of Illinois  
[www.lutheransforlife.org/lfl-of-illinois](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/lfl-of-illinois)

Living Alternatives Pregnancy Resource Center  
[hopeforafuture.com](http://hopeforafuture.com)

Lutheran Hillside Village  
[lssliving.org/communities/lutheran-hillside-village](http://lssliving.org/communities/lutheran-hillside-village)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Life Team  
[cookgl@charter.net](mailto:cookgl@charter.net) or [kathybohnet@gmail.com](mailto:kathybohnet@gmail.com)

Shantel Handmade Jewelry  
[shantel218@gmail.com](mailto:shantel218@gmail.com)  
309.678.9293

# 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

Rev. John Davis

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– Spring Branch  
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*Virginia also serves as national conference director.*

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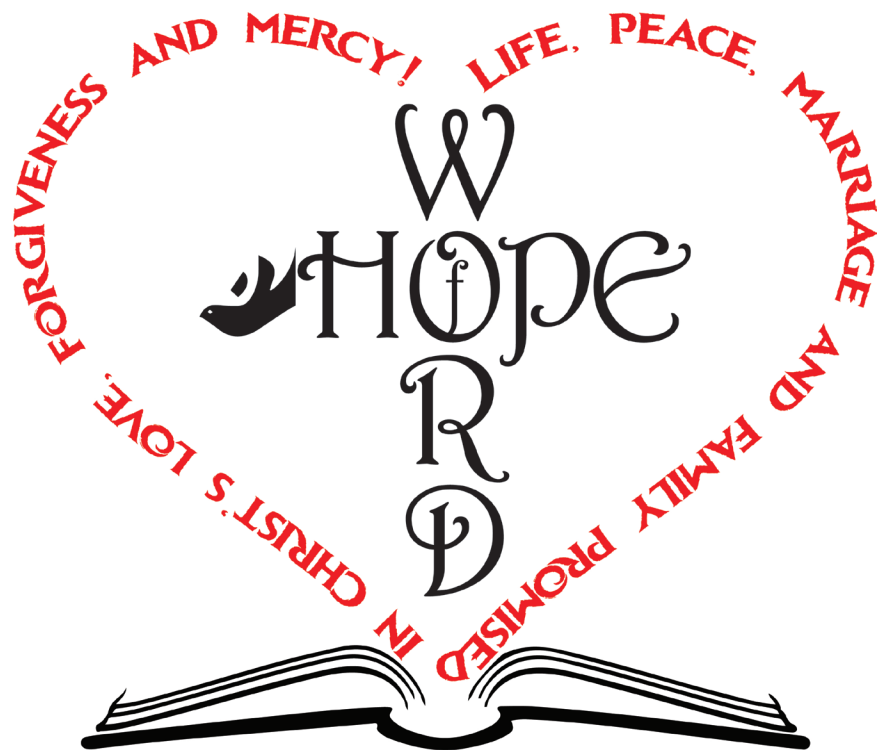
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Jill Johnsen, South Dakota – Wessington  
Paula Oldenburg, Wisconsin – Rhinelander

## **Lutherans For [Life](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)**

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

**[info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org)  
[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://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](http://www.word-of-hope.org).

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

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



**Attention all Life Teams and Life Chapters!**

**Join in on the Frontline call to get LFL updates and new project ideas.**

**When:** Monday, January 8, 2018  
7:00-8:00 p.m. CT

**What:** There will be a devotion, LFL activity update, life project ideas, and Q & A.

**CONNECT:** Dial: 563.999.2090 – Upon being prompted, add PIN 889227 to join the call.

[www.lutheransforlife.org/about/life-chapters-and-life-teams](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/about/life-chapters-and-life-teams)

**Check Out “Life on the Web” on our Life Blog**

**Life on the Web ...**



**Lutherans For Life**

**[www.lutheransforlife.org/life-blog](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/life-blog)**

# Hope For Life



**“B**ut in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense** to anyone who asks you for a reason **for the hope that is in you;** yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

**“F**or it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.”

1 Peter 3:15-17

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

Life Sunday  
January 21, 2018

*Bulletin Inserts*  
*Bible Study*  
*Children’s Message*  
*Worship Service*  
*Sermons*

[www.lutheransforlife.org/  
store-life-sunday-2018](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/store-life-sunday-2018)



**Lutherans For Life**

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**





# NOTES

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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