



## Hope for Life

by LFL President Lynette Auch



**“[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 ...” (1 Peter 3:15).**

Our lives are touched daily by some form of life issue within our small communities, across our nation or throughout the world: sickness, disease, death, abortion, infertility, physician-assisted suicide, euthanasia, homosexuality, biotechnology, suicide, homicide, human trafficking, sale of human body parts, gender confusion, etc., etc.

With this constant bombardment, we may find ourselves in the depths of frustration and despair. Even as Christians we may, at times, wonder if there is any hope.

What is hope? In my research, I found strength and encouragement in this definition of biblical hope: a confident expectation and desire for something good in the future.

**“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you” (1 Peter 1:3-4 NIV).**

**“[T]he LORD says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze” (Isaiah 43:1-2 NIV).**

As created, redeemed, and called children of God, we have a living hope, a confident expectation, that as we daily navigate through the swirling waters and the blazing flames of the numerous life issues, God promises to be with us. But, notice that God does not take us around or over our troubles, He takes us through them.

**“In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed” (1 Peter 1:6-7 NIV)**

**“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given us” (Romans 5:1-5 NIV).**

The refining and suffering process of our faith can be quite unpleasant, and even painful, but it produces the hope, the confident expectation, that God desires to be ours.

This HOPE, this confident expectation, found in God’s Word assures us of our eternal salvation through the selfless, loving sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus Christ. This HOPE, this confident expectation, emboldens us to be prepared to make a defense for those who cannot speak for themselves. This HOPE, this confident expectation, empowers us to share this **Hope for Life** to a hopeless people and world! This HOPE, this confident expectation, equips us to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life!

Living in “confident expectation” while serving the Lord of Life with you.

# Hope for Life

## From Pastor Michael Salemink

The LORD be with you! We owe you a debt of gratitude. Our ministry had a very active, productive, and effective year in 2018:

- **Owen's Mission** has shown Lutheran schools across the country how God creates, redeems, and calls each human being to be His own precious treasure from the miracle of conception unto eternity.
- **Y4Life** has trained and coached university students to speak the truth in love with their neighbors.
- **Word of Hope** has listened and ministered with our Savior's healing forgiveness to hearts broken by violence against life.
- **Life Sunday Resources—Hope For Life**, including services, sermons, children's messages, and Bible studies, have educated, motivated, and activated congregations full of Gospel voices.
- **Life Chapters, Life Teams, and State Federations** have affirmed the sanctity and privilege of human life for entire communities.
- **LifeDate** has brought Scripture's purpose, worth, comfort, and encouragement into the hands of troubled minds and the homes of threatened lives.
- **Your national staff** has visited and engaged Lutheran gatherings about life issues from coast to coast and Midwest to Dixieland.

**Your gifts have made all this possible! Thank you so much.** We've reached literally tens of thousands nationwide in the past 12 months. Our message has touched their souls with courage and compassion that the enemy has no answer for. The Heavenly Father has changed hearts and saved lives through our relationships and resources. And we have exciting and ambitious plans already underway for 2019! Millions more will view death as a solution to suffering this year. The devil's deceptions and the culture's pressures are going to abandon and endanger our neighbors. We cannot let up as long as anyone's survival and eternity are at stake. We have a front-row seat to God's mighty work. We get to not only witness firsthand but also participate in the joy. Don't let these opportunities and promises pass by!

## March for Life 2018

On January 19, 2018, Pastor Salemink, Laura Hemminger, and Pastor Scott Licht, as well as a delegation of Lutheran youth participants, were present at the March for Life in Washington, D.C.—testifying to the truth of the Gospel and demonstrating its power.

## 2018 LFL National Conference

Over 240 people from the United States and Canada gathered October 12-13 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Olivette (St. Louis), Missouri, at the 2018 Lutherans For Life National Conference. The theme, **"From Age to Age the Same,"** based on Isaiah 46:3b-4, was the guide for this special conference commemorating LFL's 40 years of ministry. The words to this theme verse from Isaiah provided a special understanding of the Lord's plan For Life: 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." Several LFL pioneers came back to share their memories and bring encouragement as they have seen the Lord work through LFL for these 40 years.



## Life Teams/Life Chapters/Mission and Ministry

Lutherans For Life Mission and Ministry Director Deaconess Rachel Geraci and Regional Directors Virginia Flo (Minnesota) and Dr. Barb Geistfeld (Texas) worked to celebrate God's goodness in our Frontlines in 2018.

With the birth of our quarterly **Frontline Teleconferences**, Life Teams and Life Chapters were able to share their ideas with Lutherans throughout the United States. These calls serve as a wonderful means of encouragement, reminding our LFL volunteers that they are never alone when going about the Lord's work. Tune in to our next teleconference on Monday, April 8, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. Central Time. **Life Team Tool Kits** remain ever popular with 36 being sold in 2018 to churches in 18 different states (plus Puerto Rico and Ontario)! Life Teams continue to spring up across the country. We also celebrated the birth of our newest Life Chapter, the Miami Valley Chapter, based out of Dayton, Ohio. To learn more about our Frontlines, please visit our website at [www.lutheransforlife.org/about/life-chapters-and-life-teams](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/about/life-chapters-and-life-teams).

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



# Hope for Life

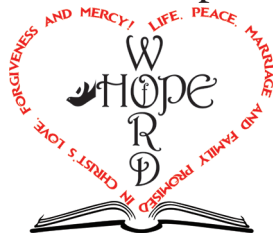
## Social Media

Our Facebook group for Life Chapter and Life Teams continues to grow. The group offers a way to share and exchange ideas and is a place to connect with other frontline volunteers. Go to: [www.facebook.com/groups/teampageLFL](http://www.facebook.com/groups/teampageLFL). Also be sure to like LFL's regular Facebook page; follow us on Twitter; and check us out on Instagram, YouTube, and Vimeo.

## Life Sunday and Other New Resources

New resources offered in 2018: **Hope for Life** Life Sunday materials (bulletin insert, *Just For Kids* insert, sermons, and service), *Grounded in God's Word: Commentaries on Life* – a new book with Concordia Publishing House, *The Story of Baby Shalom* by Marie MacPherson (a booklet on miscarriage), *Going Gracefully – A Better End-of-Life Approach Than Assisted Suicide* (a new brochure). *Life News* continues to be offered monthly as a free downloadable PDF.

## Word of Hope



**Word of Hope** Director, Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, is dedicated to the mission of proclaiming “life, peace, marriage, and family promised in Christ’s love, forgiveness, and mercy” to anyone

contacting the hotline.

In an effort to reach all who suffer, she implemented the LFL strategic plan to accomplish the following:

1. Promoted the **Word of Hope** hotline at 19 presentations, retreats, conferences, conventions, and circuit meetings across the nation
2. Engaged the youth through confirmation classes, high-school and college-campus events, and social media
3. Supported Life Teams and Life Chapters with information and resources on a variety of life issues
4. Utilized phone, email, social media, video communications, and postal mail to provide diaconal care, resources, promotional materials, education, encouragement, updates, and letters of appreciation
5. Secured grants from LWML Districts and Foundations totaling \$74,586.58 to fund the Word of Hope hotline expansion
6. Expanded the database of referrals to include a variety of pan-Lutheran churches, pregnancy centers, and recognized service agencies for anyone contacting Word of Hope

Averaging approximately 10 contacts a month, the **Word of Hope** hotline expansion is still in the early stages and has a long journey ahead. Goals for 2019 include producing a variety of promotional media for distribution, particularly in funded districts; focused training and close collaboration with other organizations to reach specific populations; and continuing assessment of resources to maximize efforts. ([www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org); [info@word-of-hope.org](mailto:info@word-of-hope.org); 888.217.8679)

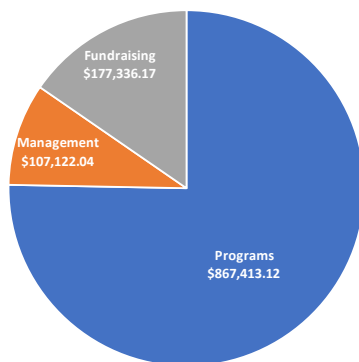
### Income – 2015, 2016, 2017

2015 Income	\$1,082,499
2016 Income	\$1,142,310
2017 Income	\$1,042,808

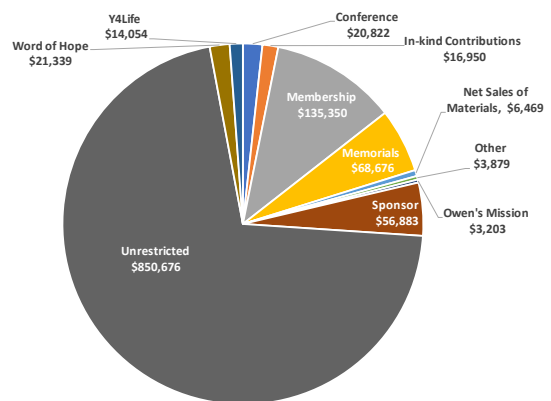
### Expenses – 2015, 2016, 2017

2015 Expenses	\$1,039,804
2016 Expenses	\$1,100,316
2017 Expenses	\$1,187,229

### 2018 Operational and Restricted Expenses



### 2018 Operational and Restricted Income



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**



**Lutherans For Life**

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## Hope For Life



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**"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



# 2018 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

### LFL Council of State Federation Presidents

Rev. David M. Bottorff, Illinois – Bourbonnais  
Rev. James Beversdorf – Indiana – Valparaiso  
Rev. Richard Salcido, Iowa – Ida Grove  
Jeanne Mackay, Kansas – Lenexa  
Rev. Paul Clark, Michigan – Fowlerville  
Diane Albers, Missouri – St. Louis  
Helen Lewis, Montana – Great Falls  
Bob Saeger, Nebraska – Waco  
Rev. Chris Brademeyer, North Dakota – Oakes  
Jill Johnsen, South Dakota – Wessington  
Paula Oldenburg, Wisconsin – Rhinelander

### National LFL Board of Directors

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Stephenie Hovland, Portage, Wisconsin  
Dcs. Tiffany Manor, New Hartford, Connecticut  
Rev. Charles St-Onge, Deux-Montagnes, Quebec, Canada

### National LFL Office Staff

Rev. Michael W. Saleminck – *Executive Director*  
Rev. Scott Licht – *National Director*  
Lowell J. Highby – *Director of Communications*  
Dcs. Rachel Geraci – *Mission and Ministry Director*  
Laura Hemminger – *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.