

## News and Notes

- **Y4Life has a chance to win \$1,000 and you can help!** All you have to do is click on this link ([www.wishpond.com/lp/637595/entries/27005264/reference](http://www.wishpond.com/lp/637595/entries/27005264/reference)) and vote for our video. Then share this link with all of your friends! You can vote once a day, every day, until May 15. If we receive the most votes, we will win \$1,000 to help fund our new Y4Life Collegiate Internship Program! Vote today and help support these wonderful students as they stand For Life! Thanks!
- **Created • Redeemed • Called:** Our 2015 Lutherans For Life National Conference is set for October 30-31 at the Creation Museum near Petersburg, Kentucky. More information and a link to register can be found at [www.lutheransforlife.org/conference](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/conference).
- **Join us for a Life Team Leader Conference Call on Tuesday, June 16, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. (CT).** This call is for potential, new, veteran, apprentice, and assistant Life Team Leaders! The purpose is to give leaders “strength for their journey.” Dial 832.551.5516 and enter Pass Code 100219 followed by the # key. Go to [www.lutheransforlife.org/about/chapters-and-life-teams](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/about/chapters-and-life-teams) to find out more.
- **OPEN HOUSE** – Thank you to everyone who stopped by the new Lutherans For Life national office on April 28 for our open house. Photos from the open house have been posted on our Facebook page and at [www.lutheransforlife.org/about/photo-gallery](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/about/photo-gallery).



- **We have a Facebook group for Chapters, Life Teams, and LMCs.** The group includes an idea exchange and is a place to connect with other frontline volunteers. To join or contribute an idea, please e-mail [ltrinche@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:ltrinche@lutheransforlife.org) and indicate in the subject line “Sign Me Up!”
- **Life Team training scholarships—time is running out!** We have scholarships available nationwide for congregations wishing to start a Life Team but who need help with the cost of training. Requests for assistance will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis and are good through June 30, 2015. Please contact Lori Trinche at [ltrinche@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:ltrinche@lutheransforlife.org) or 708.839.1200 x225.



- **Our Mission & Ministry Coordinator, Lori Trinche, would love to hear from you!** Her focus is helping, guiding, and mentoring our chapters, Life Teams, Life Ministry Coordinators, and state federations. Lori says, “Chapter leaders, LMCs, Life Team Leaders, pastors and other For Life servants—if I can help you with ideas or pray for you, please call me anytime at 708.839.1200 x225 or email me at ltrinche@lutheransforlife.org.”

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



- **Lutherans For Life Grassroots:** LFL has 11 state federations, 116 local chapters, 136 Life Ministry Coordinators, 86 Life Team Leaders, and 96 Life Teams in the US.

- **AmazonSmile** – Shop at AmazonSmile, and Amazon will make a donation to Lutherans For Life! Check it out through the link on our Store and Give pages at [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org) and in our weekly *Life Notes* newsletter. (This is not an endorsement of all things Amazon, but it is a free opportunity for Amazon shoppers to support Lutherans For Life.)



- **Real Estate for Life** – “It takes so little to do so much to save the life of a child.” Real Estate for Life makes it easy for you to help Lutherans For Life by using funds a real estate company has already earmarked for commission fees at no extra cost to you. Under real estate law, Real Estate for Life will receive a referral fee. 100% of the profits of that fee will be donated to pro-life organizations. Find out how it works at [www.lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life).



- **Start your own Life Team!** A Life Team is a congregationally based group. The Life Team becomes part of the congregation’s structure, much like a mission team or evangelism committee. The goal is to make addressing the life issues a part of the ongoing Gospel ministry of the congregation. Learn more at: [www.lutheransforlife.org/about/chapters-and-life-teams](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/about/chapters-and-life-teams).



- **Check out Teaching For Life® Online,** LFL’s latest means of “equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life”! This self-study, online course is designed for junior high through adult. **And it’s FREE!** [www.lutheransforlife.org/media/teaching-for-life-online](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/media/teaching-for-life-online)



## Casting Stones

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

Let me begin with a disclaimer: This study is not to be taken literally! I am not promoting the casting of real stones! But please read on.

Read 1 Samuel 17:45. We are all familiar with David and Goliath. Do a little grammar work on this verse. If I tell you that “whom” in this verse is singular in the Hebrew, who or what is the antecedent?

In our culture today, when people defy life, whom are they really defying?

But let’s not leave ourselves out of this. Do we ever “defy” God’s gift of life by the things we might or might not do?

David comes to the battlefield, not with sword or spear or javelin, but “in the name of the LORD of hosts.” However, he did have something else. What was that? (17:40)

Why does David choose five stones? If he is so confident of victory, why not just one?

Some people answer this by pointing out that Goliath may have had four brothers that David is preparing for just in case. But just because David is confident of victory doesn’t mean he knows God’s precise “game plan” for victory. So he goes prepared.

As I have been traveling around recently, I have been asking LFLers like yourselves about the “stones” we can cast at the giant of death in our culture. At this point, we have identified six, and each one has several ideas listed under it. Discuss these. Add to them. Let me know your additions. Put some into action!

### **The Political Stone**

Inform yourself, inform others, inform elected officials, vote, campaign, run for office

### **The Activist Stone**

Picketing, sidewalk counseling, prayer vigils, 40 Days for Life, Marches for Life, Life Chains

### **The Service Stone**

Pregnancy resource centers, volunteer, financial support, visit homebound, visit nursing homes, various congregational activities, LFL’s Word of Hope post abortion hotline (888.217.8679 or [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)), servant events

### **The Education Stone**

From the pulpit, Bible study, LFL DVDs, LFL website, Y4Life website, LFL curriculum, seminars, servant events



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### **The Witness Stone**

All the above! I have always maintained that the life issues make up a mission field. Discuss how the above “stones” may provide opportunities to share the Gospel of Life in Jesus Christ.

### **The Prayer Stone**

For the Church, for our country, pastors, LFL, crisis pregnancy centers, infirm, etc.

Of course, it was not the stone that gave David the final victory. What was that? (17:51)

Real and lasting victory For Life comes from the sword. Do we have one? (See Ephesians 6:17)

But are we really striving for victory over this giant of death? (Read 1 Corinthians 15:54-57)

We strive in victory given to us in Christ! So take heart and be courageous as you joyfully “cast your stones”! [BUT NOT LITERALLY!]



## Life Team Leadership Summit in Fowler, Michigan

April 11, 2015



“Thanks again for presenting, Lori! So many great resources and ideas were shared. I look forward to trying some of them at my church!”

*A new Life Team Leader*

From the hosting pastor: “Great day! Thank you very much! God bless!”

*Leadership Summit host pastor*

“We received nothing but VERY POSITIVE feedback from those who attended Saturday’s Summit. The majority of people requested that we make it an annual event. Terry [my husband] was so impressed that he agreed to serve with me on our congregational Life Team.”

*Connie Davis, president of LFL of Michigan*





## Statewide Diaper Shower

This project idea is from Lutherans For Life of Michigan but could be adapted for your area.

Lutherans For Life of Michigan sponsors an annual Statewide Diaper Shower starting on Mother's Day and running through Father's Day. This is done to support local pro-life pregnancy resource centers throughout Michigan.

This is what LFL of Michigan does:

1. Encourage the members of your congregation to purchase packages of disposable diapers.
2. Collect the diapers in a specified area at your church.
3. Tally the number of individual diapers collected and call or email the total to Connie Davis at 586.949.9261 or [lflmi@comcast.net](mailto:lflmi@comcast.net).
4. Donate the collected diapers to your local pregnancy care center.

**“[W]hatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.”**  
Matthew 25:40





## I Live in Minnesota—I'm Speaking Up

*by Virginia J. Flo, Lutherans For Life Regional Director of Minnesota*

I live in Minnesota, the land of 10,000 lakes with sky blue waters, green grass, and trees everywhere. There are also many Lutherans here who have a variety of backgrounds and national origins. And, on top of all that, we have something called “Minnesota Nice.” According to my research, Minnesota Nice is the stereotypical behavior of people born and raised in Minnesota to be courteous, reserved, and mild-mannered. All of this results in a polite friendliness, an aversion to confrontation and conflict, a tendency toward understatement, and emotional restraint.

Well, right now, there is a real need for all Lutherans in Minnesota—and anyone else for that matter—to set aside our reserved nature and emotional restraint and speak up and be heard. Why? Because we have in our midst a life issue that, if not contained, will unsettle the most personal moral code.

So, what am I talking about? Let me see if I can set aside my Minnesota Nice for just a little while so I can be direct. On March 23, 2015, a bill to legalize assisted suicide was introduced to the Minnesota Senate Committee on Health, Human Services, and Housing. The hearing was informative, but no opposition opinion was presented. No vote was taken on that particular day, but this is just the beginning. There is still time for the voices for life to speak up for what is right and God-pleasing. We are now one of several states being targeted as a place conducive to allowing doctors to prescribe lethal medication to end a person's life.

If this bill gets past the hearings and ends up on the floor of both houses, it could become law. It is certainly far from that stage at this point, but we need to pray that all state legislators will come to understand how contrary assisted suicide is to Scripture and God's plan to affirm life. Assisted suicide is just plain wrong. Over the next few months, Minnesotans will hear about “listening sessions” scheduled in various areas around the state. If you live in Minnesota, please consider attending and let your voice be heard. This is not a time to passively sit back in hopes this issue will go away so we don't have to confront it.

This bill will jeopardize the most vulnerable, including the elderly, sick, and disabled as well as people suffering from depression and other treatable mental illnesses. All of these people would be at risk of being dealt a serious consequence—death. We live in the real world so we need to speak up and let people know that we support life and death is not a “choice” or a “right.”

When we turn away from accepting that God decides when life ends, what is left? Even the terminally ill do not know exactly what day, hour, minute, or second will be their last. Neither can they know what good they can bring in their last moments as a Christian witness, nor how their last moments may help medical professionals learn something new. It should also be considered that an inexact or mistaken diagnosis could cause a hasty death through assisted suicide.

Assisted suicide is also wrong because judging someone's quality of life takes away the God-given value of life. This would surely put the elderly in harm's way, as many are convinced they



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are a burden to their families and friends. The disabled are also at risk as the world labels their lives as being worth less than others, fails to see their accomplishments and the joy they create, and the love God, their creator, sees in them, no matter their physical limitations.

We surely have a desire and a need to care for the sick and provide comfort to the suffering. But, assisting them to take their life or not providing laws that protect them from others who may have an unwholesome influence over their time of death is serious business. Those states that have legalized assisted suicide have glorified death as if it is the only answer and solution to life's issues. In Oregon, the poster child state for assisted suicide, they have seen a 49 percent increase in non-assisted suicides, since legalizing assisted suicide, while the national average is 28 percent. Suicide has become a contagion and serious threat to those suffering depression and other treatable mental illnesses.

Ironically, these assisted suicide bills are called "Death with Dignity Acts." To me, death with dignity is when we look to God to plan and control our final days, paving the way for our appropriate time to join Him in our heavenly life eternal. True death with dignity is when we rejoice in the life God has given us and there is a celebration when our natural death occurs, as we know God has more in store for us with His eternal promise and His love for life.

Lutherans For Life is not a political organization. We do not support candidates or political parties. What we do support is the life-affirming message of the Gospel. So, to all you Minnesotans, and anyone facing a similar legislative challenge through the legalization of assisted suicide, please share the message of life. God loves life. He created life. He sent His Son Jesus to save life through his redeeming grace. And, He has called everyone into an eternal life relationship with Him through the waters of baptism.

How can we not speak up? How can we not confront this issue right in front of us? If we underestimate the potential risk to life and restrain from sharing the powerful Gospel message we are simply going along with what the world says about death being the only solution. May we all never be afraid to speak up about all of the life issues and not wait until it's too late and our beliefs and Christian values are overrun by the world's sinful view. God, in His infinite wisdom, gave us a voice. May we use it to give Him glory and to share His amazing love through Jesus death and resurrection, overcoming the power of death, giving us life eternal. This is our "right" as believers.



## Reporting from the Front Lines

by Lori Trinche, Mission and Ministry Coordinator

In each issue of *Directions*, I am honored to share your stories of how God is working through the Life Teams and chapters, and from your congregations and communities. Here are just a few special highlights from our precious volunteers:

**From Pam Kuhl, Life Team Leader, RLC Life Team, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Cary, North Carolina:** Based on the Mission Discovery Process in Life Team Training (process completed in January 2014), this team continues to press ahead with goals God has placed in their hearts. As one example, last May, they provided ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) to address a need to help with a resource for intervention and prevention of the immediate risk of suicide.

The RLC Life Team is currently sponsoring a fundraiser to purchase drawstring backpacks and fleece blankets for Wake County foster kids. These items will be distributed to children removed from homes for their protection and placed in foster care. Many times this occurs with little or no notice, and the social worker has to put a few of the child's belongings in a garbage bag. The children are often frightened and confused. The RLC Life Team thought it would be nice for the social worker to hand the child a warm fleece blanket to snuggle with while packing a few of their things in a backpack rather than a garbage bag. One of the team members will make a clothesline display with the bags and blankets that will be set up outside of services. Donors can select a bag and blanket from the display and donate money to cover the cost of these items.

RLC Youth activity: High school youth will be making cards to go inside the backpacks that they are donating to foster children. Also the local pregnancy center is currently sending in their Fatherhood Ministry Coordinator to teach a curriculum called "Choosing Better" to teach sexual purity to their high school kids.

**From Renee Reimer, Life Team Leader at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Highland, Indiana:** Through their Life Team, this congregation is creating life issues awareness through multiple avenues. They have held a Life Sunday event and an advance directives seminar, hosted a speaker from a local foster home for disabled children, had an in-gathering for pajamas for the kids, hosted a bioethics event with their youth, and are working with a local ministry to help raise funds for building a greenhouse where disabled youth can work. They are exploring sending interested youth to the National March for Life, starting a youth life team, and working with the Student Life Team at Valparaiso University. They are also looking at helping to raise funds for a local group that is starting a maternity home for young moms in crisis.



**The team at Cross Yorkville, Illinois, recently held a Creation Fair event with some really creative and interactive object lessons for youth designed by their team.** Interested leaders can contact team leader Laura Laesch at [laeschfamily@gmail.com](mailto:laeschfamily@gmail.com) for more information.



**Pamela Swales, Life Ministry Coordinator from St. John's in Center Point, Iowa, set up a large fetal model display with development pictures from each month of pregnancy.** She handed out six-week fetal models to all the children in her congregation and brochures to the adults. Everyone was pleased with the display.

**The Life Team team at St. Michael Lutheran in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, under leader Dennis Brink provided a ministry minute in worship services—some with videos, some with PowerPoint slides—to highlight awareness of various life issues.**

**Our Natoma, Kansas, chapter under leader Martin Ulrich, has traveled to other local area church Bible studies to present on various life issues.**

These are just a few of the many ideas and ways our volunteers are making a Kingdom difference. To God be the Glory!

### **A Special Thank You**

A very special thank you to Connie Davis, president of LFL of Michigan, and Pastor Paul Clark, Michigan District Life Coordinator and pastoral advisor to LFL of Michigan, for inviting me to speak at the first regional Life Summit of Michigan. The pastors and volunteers expressed great enthusiasm, and they resoundingly shared that they would like to make it an annual event. Great fellowship, prayers, encouragement, project and fundraising ideas, and a delicious meal were shared by all!

Here is are a couple links shared at the summit that are worth checking out:

The Orphan Ministry Alliance:  
[www.orphanconnection.org](http://www.orphanconnection.org)

Michigan DHS Faith Based Initiative:  
[www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,4562,7-124-5455\\_61719---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,4562,7-124-5455_61719---,00.html)



## Marriage – A Statement by Lutherans For Life

*The Statement on Marriage was adopted by the National Lutherans For Life Board of Directors on February 21, 2004.*

Find links to order and download this statement at:

[www.lutheransforlife.org/article/marriage-a-statement-by-lutherans-for-life](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/article/marriage-a-statement-by-lutherans-for-life)

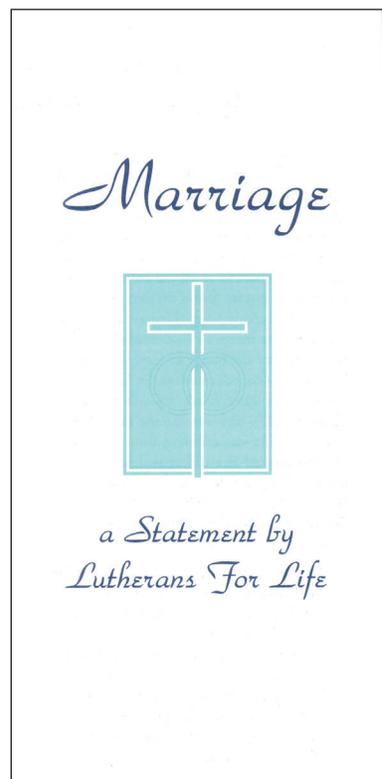
In God's "very good" creation, there was one thing "not good." **"It is not good for the man to be alone"** (Genesis 2:18 NIV). It was not companionship that the man needed. It was relationship, a relationship that would be like God's relationship with him. Adam may have found a companion as all the animals paraded before him, but he found no one suitable for this kind of relationship (Genesis 2:20). He who bore the image of God needed someone who also bore the image of God in order to have a God-like relationship. So God made a woman. She was created in God's image (Genesis 1:27). She was like the man in many ways (Genesis 2:23), but she was different from the man in others. She was created at a different time, in a different way, and for a different purpose (Genesis 2:22, 2:15, 3:20). It was that difference that made possible the kind of relationship God wanted.

Adam and Eve were capable of becoming one flesh and in that relationship could mirror their relationship with their Creator. God brought them together in this relationship called marriage (Genesis 2:24). Marriage was a part of all that was "good" in God's perfect creation. Marriage was not given as an institution to curb sin. There was no sin. Marriage was given as the foundation for the one-flesh relationship.

Marriage was also the relationship through which procreation would continue. **"Be fruitful and increase in number"** (Genesis 1:28 NIV). Marriage is intended to produce children. The effects of sin upon God's biological process for procreation sometimes make it difficult or impossible for a marriage to fulfill this blessing. However, barring such unfortunate circumstances, children are to be the result of this one-flesh union.

Sin has certainly brought problems to marriage. The reality of problematic marriages, however, does not alter the essence of marriage. Jesus makes this clear. **"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one"** (Mark 10:6-8 NIV). What God intended marriage to be in the beginning, He still intends marriage to be.

Throughout Scripture marriage is a picture of God's relationship to His people. God is Israel's



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“husband” (Isaiah 54:5, Jeremiah 3:14, Hosea 2:19-20). As such, He rejoices over His bride (Isaiah 62:5). Jesus is pictured as the bridegroom and the Church His bride (Revelation 19:7). It was His unconditional love for His bride the Church that caused Him to give Himself up for her (Ephesians 5:25).

Lutherans For Life affirms the great blessing of the institution of marriage as revealed in God’s holy Word. We affirm that marriage is a God-given institution between a man and a woman. We affirm that this one-flesh union reflects our relationship with our Creator and Redeemer. We affirm that it is the means God has chosen for procreation. Based on this, we are compelled to humble ourselves before God and ask His forgiveness for all the times we have dishonored marriage by trivializing its importance, by neglecting to reflect Christ’s love in our marriages, and by failing to connect the importance of marriage and our relationship to God.

Based on this, we are also compelled to reject homosexual unions as contrary to the Word of God. The “sameness” of homosexuals prevents a one-flesh union as well as the possibility of the procreation of children. Such unions do not and cannot reflect our relationship with our Creator and Redeemer. Such unions are based on a lie rather than the Word of God (Romans 1:25) and cannot constitute a marriage.

Marriage is founded upon the promise publicly exchanged between one man and one woman. Similarly, our Redeemer binds Himself to His Church with His promise, **“I am with you always”** (Matthew 28:20 NIV); **“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you”** (Hebrews 13:5 NIV). Living together without the public promise of mutual love, respect, and fidelity dishonors marriage and is fornication. Adultery breaks the marriage vow, whether by marital infidelity, abuse, or abandonment. We must reject as contrary to the Word of God these and all practices which would not keep the marriage bed pure—impurity of thought, word, or deed (e.g., the use of pornography). We also reject as contrary to the Word of God any reproductive technologies that violate or circumvent the institution of marriage (e.g., donated eggs or sperm and cloning).

We believe, as God says, **“Marriage should be honored by all”** (Hebrews 13:4 NIV). May God give us the faith, wisdom, and courage to bring honor to this great blessing from Him.



## Speakers Bureau

[www.lutheransforlife.org/about/speakers-bureau-concerts-for-life](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/about/speakers-bureau-concerts-for-life)

Do you need a speaker? Lutherans For Life will work with you to help meet your needs for a speaker at a rally, convention, Bible study, worship service, public or parochial school, college/university, or workshop/seminar. A variety of formats are available. Dr. Lamb says, “These speakers not only address a variety of life issues, but do so based on the Word of God.”

### General speaker guidelines (may vary by individual):

- Airfare/Mileage: Actual airfare and/or current standard IRS mileage rate to airport or event
- Lodging: Quiet, non-smoking hotel room
- Honorarium: Affiliated speakers for Lutherans For Life are not in a paid position. Therefore, we ask that sponsoring groups provide an honorarium for affiliated speakers. The sponsoring group determines the amount of the honorarium. Honorariums depend on number of events. Honorariums begin at \$200.
- Meals: \$25 per day unless other arrangements are made
- Other: A lectern will be needed. A TV, video projector, DVD player, and screen may be needed.

### Speakers:

James I. Lamb (nationwide and Canada)  
Jean Amundson (nationwide)  
Linda D. Bartlett (nationwide)  
Rev. Paul M. Clark (nationwide)  
Connie Davis (nationwide)  
Daniel M. Domke (within five to six hours of Huron, South Dakota)  
John Eidsmoe (nationwide)  
Kim Hardy (nationwide)  
Anthony Horvath (nationwide)  
Kimberly Ketola (nationwide)  
Sheila Luck (nationwide)  
Ryan C. MacPherson (within 150 miles of Mankato, Minnesota)  
Betty McGuire (nationwide)  
Allen Quist (within Minnesota and Iowa)  
Russell E. Saltzman (nationwide)  
Alvin J. Schmidt (nationwide and in Canada)  
Carl F. Schroeder (nationwide)  
Diane E. Schroeder (nationwide)  
Patti Smith (nationwide)  
Francis W. Szarejko (nationwide)  
Ed Szeto (nationwide)  
Luke Timm (nationwide)



## Speaking Engagement Report Form

We appreciate the many hours our faithful grassroots workers contribute to sharing the For Life message. If you or your state federation/chapter have the opportunity to speak on the life issues in your community, please let us know! This information will help us as we look at our strategic plan and determine the resources that are most needed to help you carry forth your mission for life! Please return to the Life Center or e-mail [jrichard@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:jrichard@lutheransforlife.org).

<b>Speaking Engagement Report Form</b>	
<b>Speaker's Name:</b>	
<b>Location:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Topic of Presentation:</b>	
<b>Audience presented to</b> (teens, adults, children, etc):	
<b>Number of people in attendance:</b>	
<b>Resources used at pre- sentation</b> (DVD, bro- chures, articles, etc):	



## Fundraising Tips

The subject of seeds comes up frequently at this time of year for those of us who enjoy gardening. As Lori Trinche works with Life Teams and Chapters, one of the subjects that comes up often is funding for starting or continuing projects.

In the past editions of *Directions*, we shared fundraising ideas for groups but want to focus in this issue on grants that are available to help plant ministry ideas, with your volunteers working to water the project, and the Light of the World (our “Son-shine,” Jesus Christ) providing the light needed to grow faith and trust.

“Seed” grants are plentiful for congregations and teams if you keep an eye out.

Here are just a few examples to check out:

[www.lcms.org/standgrants](http://www.lcms.org/standgrants)

[www.lcms.org/developmentgrants](http://www.lcms.org/developmentgrants)

[www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams](http://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams)

Young Adults: [www.wheatridge.org/burstprojects](http://www.wheatridge.org/burstprojects)

Older Adults and Aging: [www.wheatridge.org/programs/grants/grants-directory](http://www.wheatridge.org/programs/grants/grants-directory)





## Owen's Mission – Little Babies Making a Big Difference

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

**“My frame was not hidden from you when I was being made in secret” (Psalm 139:15).**

Over 11,000 students have now heard about Owen's Mission! Many of you know the effect that the *Touch of Life* fetal models have on students of all ages. From preschoolers to seminarians, they give visual and tactile reality to God's handiwork in that “secret place” of the womb. The impact of that reality stays with them and can inform future decisions and choices. A Lutheran schoolteacher shared with me the impact seeing these babies had on her when she was in elementary school. Later on she was able to help a friend dealing with an unplanned pregnancy see and understand the reality of her unborn baby.

Wouldn't it be great if we could place a set of these models in every Lutheran school in the country? Wouldn't it be great if we could touch the lives of over 137,000 students? Yes, it would! And we will!

That is the goal of Owen's Mission. Our 21-week-old grandson, Owen James, who died during fetal surgery to remove a large tumor, inspired Owen's Mission. The nurse brought little Owen's body to our son and me as we waited in the recovery room for Owen's mom, Heather. Owen was wrapped in a little blanket and had one of those little stocking caps on his head. Holding Owen in my hand affected me profoundly. I had held the twenty-week fetal model in that same hand hundreds of times over the years, but I had grown numb to the reality of what the model represents. Owen brought me back to that reality and the urgent need to help others see it as well. Owen's Mission desires to honor the Lord of Life by presenting these models to every Lutheran elementary and high school in the country. That's a big project! Would you like to help? Here are some ways to do so.

- Pray that the Lord will bless this mission with His mighty power and provide the people and financial resources needed.
- Pray that God's Holy Spirit will be at work through these models in classrooms around the country.
- Give personally to this mission. Our financial goal is \$175,000.
- Conduct a fundraiser in your area.
- Volunteer to be a presenter to schools in your area. We have a DVD and guidelines for its use to make this as easy as possible. If interested, contact your state federation president or regional director. If you are not in a state that has these or you are just not sure, contact us at 888.364.LIFE or [info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org)
- Use the flyer we have included to promote Owen's Mission.

Thank you for all that you do to help equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life! Owen's Mission will provide yet another avenue to do so. May the Lord of Life continue to bless your service to Him through Lutherans For Life.



### Owen's Mission Update

To review: The goal of Owen's Mission is to present a set of *Touch of Life* fetal models into every Lutheran elementary and high school in the country. (You can learn more about Owen's Mission online at [www.lutheransforlife.org/owens-mission](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/owens-mission).)

The financial goal to make this happen is \$175,000. To date we have received \$58,000 plus. As you can see, we have a long way to go. Thanks to those who have already raised some funds and supported this. Clearly this will be an ongoing project, so please keep it on your radar. Things you can do:

- Pray for this project.
- Have a fundraiser for Owen's Mission in your area.
- Make your church and/or school aware of this mission.
- Have a special offering on Life Sunday or other time for Owen's Mission.
- Do you know folks who have lost children or grandchildren through miscarriage or stillbirth? Perhaps they would want to support Owen's Mission as a memorial.
- Do you know people with "deep pockets" who may have a heart for such a mission? Tell them about it!
- Think "out of the box"! Send us your ideas!

Remember, these models will not merely be sent to the schools. We want them presented. Right now we are working through our state presidents and regional directors to organize these presentations. We have a DVD and a presenter's guide that can help just about anyone present these models. If you have Lutheran schools in your area and are interested in presenting, please contact your state president or regional director. If you do not have one or do not know who that might be, contact Kim Nessa at [knessa@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:knessa@lutheransforlife.org), and she will help coordinate your efforts.

**Thanks for ALL you do!**





# 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. (That's 1078 schools affecting 139,000 students!) 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, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life, shares his story:



"I held my little grandson, Owen, in the palm of my hand. He died at twenty-one weeks during pre-natal 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 twenty-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.

## Our Goal: \$175,000

### You can support Owen's Mission by:

- Giving a personal gift
- Encouraging your school to give
- Encouraging your congregation to give
- Encouraging groups within your congregation to give

To give a gift online to Lutherans For Life go to:

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

Please designate your gift to “Owen’s Mission.”

You can also send your check to:

**Lutherans For Life**  
**PO Box 76**  
**Garden City, IA 50102-0076**

Please designate your gift to “Owen’s Mission.”

Lutherans For Life is a 501(c)(3) ministry and contributions are deductible as a charitable donation.

Please keep Lutherans For Life in your prayers.

You can also find out about many other ways to give, including estate planning assistance, at our Give page.

“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10).

**Amount Raised So Far: \$58,000 plus!**



**Lutherans For Life** is a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. We are a non-political ministry whose mission is to equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. We produce a variety of multi-media resources that connect the life issues to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We affirm life at all stages of development and in all conditions of health. We are For Life, not because we live in a society that isn’t, but because we serve a God who is.

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

## Directions • Lutherans For Life • Facts and Stats

### National Lutherans For Life Staff

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb – Executive Director  
Scott Licht – National Director  
John Hawkins – Director of Development  
Lowell J. Highby – Director of Communications  
Lori Trinche – Mission & Ministry Coordinator  
Laura Davis – Director of Y4Life  
Jerilyn Richard – Data Analyst  
Kim Nessa – Administrative Assistant  
Katie Friedrich – Office Assistant

### National LFL Board of Directors

Lynette Auch, President – Lesterville, South Dakota  
Rod Rathmann, Vice-President – Eureka, Missouri  
Rich Greiner, Treasurer – Dansville, Michigan  
Keith Alabach, State Representative – Marion, Indiana  
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Rev. Everette E. Greene – Cincinnati, Ohio  
Stephenie Hovland – Green Bay, Wisconsin  
Gary Mrosko – Faribault, Minnesota  
Ronald L. Soule – Mason, Michigan

### Regional Directors

Texas – This position is open.  
Virginia Flo, Minnesota – Eagan  
*Virginia also serves as National Conference Director.*

### State Federation Presidents

Deb Lakamp, Illinois – East Peoria  
Keith Alabach, Indiana – Marion  
Rev. Richard Salcido, Iowa – Ida Grove  
Jeanne Mackay, Kansas – Lenexa  
Connie Davis, Michigan – Macomb  
Diane Albers, Missouri – St. Louis  
Helen Lewis, Montana – Great Falls  
Bob Saeger, Nebraska – Waco  
Brock Schmeling, North Dakota – Mandan  
Jill Johnsen, South Dakota – Wessington  
Paula Oldenburg, Wisconsin – Rhinelander

### Lutherans For Life (business office)

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

### Lutherans For Life (contributions/memberships)

**PO Box 76  
Garden City, IA 50102-0076**

**info@lutheransforlife.org  
www.lutheransforlife.org  
888.364.LIFE or 515.382.2077  
Fax 515.382.3020**

LFL has 11 state federations, 116 local chapters, 136 Life Ministry Coordinators, 86 Life Team Leaders, and 96 Life Teams in the US.

**Since Roe v. Wade in 1973: 57,762,169 abortions in America**

Source: [www.lifenews.com/2015/01/21/57762169-abortion-in-america-since-roe-vs-wade-in-1973](http://www.lifenews.com/2015/01/21/57762169-abortion-in-america-since-roe-vs-wade-in-1973)

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## The Basics of Lutherans For Life

**Our Mission:** Equipping Lutherans 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 chapter is a local organization that has been chartered by National Lutherans For Life. The chapter is formally associated with and subject to, but not a part of, the corporation known as Lutherans For Life, Inc.

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 chapters. In a state where a state federation exists, the chapters also become affiliated with the state federation. This occurs automatically at the same time a chapter becomes chartered by Lutherans For Life, Inc. These relationships are basically the same whether or not the 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 Chapters and Life Ministry Coordinators 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 chapter if it is chartered.

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 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 chapter name and number, if chartered, is written on the form in the space provided. This will assure that the state federation and local 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).
- Annual memberships run from July 1 through June 30. New memberships will expire on June 30 of the year following the initial membership donation.
- An annual membership drive will begin in May of each year. Current members will receive renewal information at that time. The membership drive will also encourage new memberships, although they will be accepted at any time of the year.

### *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 chapter to which the particular members may belong. The membership donations are divided as follows:

### *Annual Memberships:*

- 20% goes to the local chapter (If there is no local 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 chapter (If there is no local chapter, this 1/12 goes to the state federation.)
- 1/12 goes to the state federation
- 10/12 remains at national

