

LifeDate

Winter 2010

A quarterly journal of life issue news and commentary from Lutherans For Life



Life Sunday Resources 2011!



Hands that Knit – Arms that Hold

LFL – Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life!



Inside LifeDate ...

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

Trust in Princes?

Hands that Knit – Arms that

Hold – Why Life Sunday?

Confessions of an Executive
Director

Kay L. Meyer

Knitting Us Together

God's People are Cheerful
Givers

Diane E. Schroeder

Now is Not the Time to Shrink
Back



page 3

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

Trust in Princes?

pages 4-9

Abortion/Post-Abortion/ Alternatives

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb: Hands that
Knit – Arms that Hold – Why Life
Sunday?

Rev. Don Richman: Lost Brothers and
Sisters – Forgiveness in Russia

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb: Confessions of
an Executive Director

page 10-15

Family Living

Rev. Trevor Keller: The Splendor of
Gray Hair

Kay L. Meyer: Knitting Us Together

Linda D. Bartlett: Jesus Doesn't Wrap
Himself Around "Silly Myths"

pages 16-17

Lutherans For Life Resources

page 18

World News

pages 19-26

Spotlight on Lutherans For Life

LifeDate: All About Equipping!

Kay L. Meyer: God's People are
Cheerful Givers

James P. Schroeder: Your Footprints

Jerilyn Richard: Renewal in 2011

Rev. Don Richman: Bringing Life to
Russia and Latvia

Join us in Texas!!

LFL's Speakers Bureau

page 27

Just For Kids

pages 28-29

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

pages 30-31

Diane E. Schroeder

Now is Not the Time to Shrink Back



Lutherans For Life

LifeDate is a free, quarterly publication of Lutherans For Life (LFL), 1120 South G Avenue, Nevada, IA 50201-2774. Please notify us of address changes.

Letters to the editor, articles, and photos may be sent directly to the editor, Lowell Highby: lhigby@lutheransforlife.org.

888.364.LIFE • Fax 515.382.3020

info@lutheransforlife.org

www.lutheransforlife.org

National LFL Life Center Staff

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb – Executive Director

George Munyon – Director of Operations

Lowell J. Highby – Director of
Communications

Kay L. Meyer – Director of Development

James P. Schroeder – Christian Estate
Planning Counselor

Trisha Adams – Business Manager and
National Conference Director

Amy O'Shaughnessy – Secretary

Jerilyn Richard – Renewal For Life
Coordinator

Kim Nessa – Administrative Assistant

Katie Friedrich – Office Assistant

Lutherans For Life is a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. LFL is not subsidized by the LCMS or any other church body. It is supported entirely by individual donations and grants.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

GOD'S WORD® is a copyrighted work of God's Word to the Nations. Quotations are used by permission.

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com

Scripture quotation marked (NKJV) are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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

Trust in Princes?

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb



A political analyst I am not. I merely offer here some personal observations and reflections upon the recent election. (Not to be taken as anything “official” from Lutherans For Life!) I admit I am not as elated as some of my For-Life colleagues. I cringe a bit at headlines like, “Voters Make Bold Pro-Life Statement.” Did they? They certainly did elect pro-life leaders, but I’m not so sure they cast their votes because of what a candidate was *for* or because of what they, the voters, were *against*. I’m stepping above my pay grade here, but I would guess that many of these same voters voted for the most pro-abortion president we have ever had. I pray I’m wrong about the voters’ pro-life priorities, but I’m afraid there is another “P” word operative here—pocketbooks.

John Eidsmoe, a pastor and attorney and a member of the LFL board of directors, wrote some reflections on the election. In his piece, he quoted Mario Rubio, newly-elected Republican Senator from Florida: “... and we make a grave mistake if we believe that tonight these results are somehow an embrace of the Republican Party. What they are is a second chance—a second chance for Republicans to be what they said they were going to be, not so long ago.”

In a similar vein, we make a grave mistake if we think just electing leaders whom we label “pro-life” is somehow a

pro-life mandate that will bring sweeping changes protecting the unborn from the daily slaughter of abortion. That did not even happen when all three branches of our government were “pro-life.” We don’t need just pro-life politicians. We need pro-life champions who will promote the priority of protecting innocent children even over the priority of protecting pocketbooks.

Okay, back to my pay grade before it goes even lower! The words of Psalm 118 come to mind. **“It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes”** (vs 8-9). I do pray and hope the “pro-life princes” we have elected will indeed bring pro-life

changes. But my trust for real change is in the **LORD**. He changes hearts, and we need a lot more changed hearts before we will ever get changed laws. We need a lot more changed hearts so we can get a lot more

pro-life champions. We need a lot more changed hearts so we can get our priorities in their proper place.

That’s why LFL will continue to do what we have always done regardless of which “princes” are in office. We will continue to equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. We will continue to help people view the life issues through the lens of the Word of God and the cross of Christ. We will continue to pray that through His Word, God will change the hearts of more and more of His people on these issues so that, based on the great value God in Christ gives to human life, we can be an increasingly influential and loving voice both in our congregations and in our society.



Hands that Knit – Arms that Hold – Why Life Sunday?

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb



Do we observe a Sanctity of Human Life Sunday because we live in a society that does not uphold the God-given value of human life? No, there is more to it than that. We do not uphold the sanctity of human life because we live in a society that doesn't, but because we serve a GOD WHO DOES. Do we observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday because life is precious? No, there is even more to it than that. We uphold the sanctity of human life because life is precious TO GOD!

God's Word about life raises the life issues way above the political realm. It tells us that every human life is created by God, every human life is a life for whom Jesus Christ died, and every human life Jesus desires to take into His arms and call into an eternal relationship with Him.

Hands that Knit

Yes, God's Word of life reminds us very clearly why we observe Sanctity of Life Sunday. First, life is precious to God because His hands knit us together. Psalm 139 says, **"For you formed my inmost being"** (v 13a). He creates the essence of what is uniquely you. That's how biology works. When the genetic code from mom and dad come together, you were you at that moment—male or female, tall or short, brown eyes or blue—it was all there, your "inmost being." You were you. You were not "something" that was going to become you; you were *someone*

who was you!

Then you implanted yourself into the uterine wall. You produced your placenta and umbilical cord. As one part of you continues this hook up, another part of you, a group of cells called "stem cells," starts changing. Those cells become bone, skin, nerves, muscle, and so forth. Eventually, your whole body will be formed by these cells.

That seems to be reflected in Psalm 139. "Knitted me together" is literally, "You wove a covering for me." God creates your very essence, then He covers you—"knits" a body for you. No wonder the Psalmist says, **"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul**

knows it very well" (v 14). Each one of you, each human being, is fearfully and wonderfully made, the work of God's hands.

This trumps everything else we think might make life valuable. It doesn't matter whether you live

in a mansion or in a womb, whether you are six-foot-five or a tiny dot in a Petri dish. It doesn't matter the condition of your health, whether a trained athlete or unconscious in a nursing home. The value of human life comes from what God has done.

God's Handiwork Corrupted

But sin corrupts God's handiwork. All the flaws—physical, mental, emotional—flow from one giant flaw, sin. Sin corrupts our very core. This corruption affects the way we value life. Sin makes us judge life's value based on criteria *we* think is important. Sin turns the source of value from the Creator to the creature.

We have not done well with this. We



used ethnicity as a basis for value and ended up with Auschwitz and Rwanda. We used skin color as a basis for value and ended up with slavery and civil war and discrimination. We use whether you are born or not as a basis for value and end up with abortion. Over 50 million lives lost in the United States since its legalization in 1973. We use health as a basis for value and end up with “killing as a means of caring” and the elderly believing they have the “duty to die.”

This deadly sin of the creature taking the place of the Creator when assigning value to life is not just a sin we point to in society. We in the Church share the blame and shame. We do so when we fail to: **“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves”** (Proverbs 31:8a NIV). We share in the blame when we fail to deal with these issues because we think they are only political problems. We share in the blame when we sit silently as the slaughter continues.

Held in His Arms

When we do not talk about the life issues in our churches, we silence the only message that can really make a difference in the lives of people facing these grave issues. The message of the Gospel is the most powerful and positive For Life message in the universe! We have a message of our God who loved the work of His hands so much, He came down into our sin-broken world and into our sin-broken lives to bring restoration and healing. He came down to bear the blame and the shame and God’s punishment for all sin and for every sinner. He came for those who have sinned against life. In fact, in one sense, we can say He came *especially* for those who sinned against life and are crushed under that burden.

That’s the picture He gives in Mark 10. **“Whoever does not receive the**

kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it” (10:15). He is not referring to “child-like faith.” It’s child-like helplessness. Scripture pictures children as being very vulnerable and completely dependent upon others. We do not enter the Kingdom by walking in on our own. We can’t even crawl in. We lie prostrate on the outside—like a little child—acknowledging our helplessness and relying upon Christ and His mercy to come out, take us in His arms, and carry us in.

So often, those with an abortion in their past feel helpless and hopeless. But helpless and hopeless are just the kind of folks Jesus came to rescue! One woman who had an abortion finally understood this. She said, in a letter received at the LFL Life Center, “I never realized that Jesus Christ was willing to get down into my muck and miry life and lift me up out of the sewage of my problems. He has since shown me He really is.” Jesus Christ got down into our muck and miry lives and lifted us *all* up out of the sewage of our sin. He picks us *all* up in His arms, put His nail-scarred hands upon us, and blesses us with forgiveness.

Jesus doesn’t want anyone kept away from His arms. He desires that all be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. He desires to take every child, every vulnerable, sinful human being into His arms and bless them. He desires to call every life into an eternal relationship with Him.

That’s why we observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. It is not because we want to get political. It is not even because the children are precious. It is because the children—all those who are vulnerable and in need—are precious to God, a life created by Him, a life for whom Jesus died, and a life Jesus desires to take into His arms and call into an eternal relationship with Him.

Lost Brothers and Sisters – Forgiveness in Russia

*by Rev. Don Richman,
LFL International
Representative*



I have known “Pavel” for two years. He is the associate pastor in an ELKROS (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States) Church on the Volga River in west central Russia. He is a faithful, caring pastor who loves Jesus and His word and the people he is called to shepherd. In May of this year, along with a series of Bible studies on living the Christ-centered life, I did a study on abortion and forgiveness. After the Bible study he shared these troubling thoughts with me.



When I was a child, I had a great family. It consisted of my older brother, dad, mom and me—also two grandmothers and many, many relatives. And this family is the same great family today.

We lived in a country with strong patriarchal traditions. I often saw families with three, four, and more children. I saw grown-ups coming from such families and realized that when they grew up life was easier and fuller for them. I have a great older brother, whom I deeply love, but I’ve always wanted to have more of such brothers, and

also sisters!

As to my childish question, “Why don’t I have more brothers or sisters?” my parents answered that they don’t have any. And I lived peacefully and happy. But once I heard my grandmother say that I might have more brothers—and despite my granny’s insisting, my parents didn’t keep them. At that time I didn’t know what an abortion was and the mechanics of this process were not so important to me, because I was overwhelmed

by the feeling of deep offence. I felt that someone stole something from me—and the most dear people to me did it. They decided that they have the power to deal with something that doesn’t belong to them completely. It wasn’t just their sons, but also my brothers, who could support and bless me in my life.

I thought of them through my relations with my older brother.

Though I have to say that my brother and I had many misunderstandings, it didn’t affect our love to one another.

I barred this feeling and never spoke of it, especially to my parents, as I still loved them, they remained to be the closest people in my life, and I didn’t judge them for what they have done. But I was hurt.

Even after having become an adult, and hardly remembering that story, watching big families I sometimes still feel this old wound. I don't have such strong feelings now, I have accepted my parents' choice long ago. For many years I'd been living with a hidden wound, but the Lord filled and healed it when he gave me many brothers and sisters in Christ.

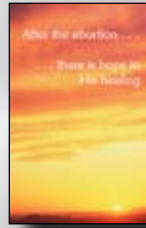
Of course, the Lord is able to fill any lack and to heal any wound, but it would be better if we didn't hurt each other.

My parents are still alive, thanks to the Lord. We love each other very much. Our family is very happy and joyful. My parents are very old and I wouldn't like this old story to bother them again, so please keep this story without real names.

Pavel's story reminds us of one more painful consequence of the waste and destruction brought upon us by the abortion mentality. How many young people are hurt, angry, and resentful that their parents robbed them of their siblings—brothers and sisters they would have grown to love and who would have supported them throughout their lives? May God give them the grace to forgive one more painful fruit of the abortion culture and give us the courage to stand against this practice in whatever way possible.

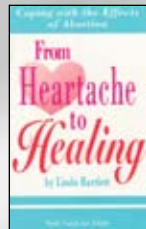
Note: According to Wikipedia, "Russia has the highest number of abortions per women of child-bearing age in the world according to UN data" (53.7 abortions per 1000 women age 15-44; 2.7 million abortions annually).

After the abortion ...



After the Abortion
There is Hope in His Healing, by Linda Bartlett, offers hope to those who are struggling with an abortion decision.

"Through the power of Christ's death and resurrection, you are set free to rejoice in the newness of life!"
Item LFL405B. **\$1.00 ea.**



From Heartache to Healing – Author Linda Bartlett encourages us all to consider the reality of abortion and the ways in which the Church can minister to the needs of those who

suffer abortion's effects. Item LFL401BS.
\$4.85 ea.



Hope in His Healing
(Spanish) – Abortion may seem convenient, but anger, guilt, and despair are soon to follow. God doesn't want us to carry the baggage of sin. Instead, He offers to set us free to rejoice in the newness of life!

Item LFL403T. **\$0.25 ea.**



Word of Hope offers information on LFL's post-abortion ministry, which offers confidential post-abortion counseling and reconciliation. **Note: Limit 25 copies.** For larger quantities call LFL.
Item LFL404T. **FREE**

Confessions of an Executive Director



by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

It was not at all what I expected. She sat on the floor, back against the wall. Fear filled her eyes and tears spilled over. It was not at all what I expected from a woman waiting to have an abortion.

This scene took place in Romania in 1996. I traveled there with a team of other pro-life leaders to see if we could assist a small group called Pro-Vita (Pro-Life) deal with an abortion rate that was the highest in the world. Nearly 85 percent of all pregnancies ended in abortion.

I confess that I expected to see women who callously disregarded the precious gift of life. The Lord quickly taught me differently. Our group visited a hospital that performed abortions. We talked with women waiting to have abortions like the woman on the floor. One woman begged us to find her husband who insisted on the abortion because of the devastating financial situation in the country. I did not see callousness or disregard for life in these women. I saw in their hollow stares hopelessness and a resignation to doing something they abhorred because they could not see any other alternative.

My lessons painfully continued. The abortions were performed behind a sheet-draped doorway. You could see the dark shadows of the abortionists which spoke of the darkness of the deed. They smoked while doing the killing. Instruments remained unclean between the five-minute executions. I finally saw the callousness and disregard for life I had

expected, but in a place and on a scale I had not.

The Lord was not through teaching. That evening our usually talkative team was quiet and somber. Hearts were heavy; eyes moist. Then, unexpectedly, the young Christian woman who was my translator broke down and confessed having had two abortions. That day she translated much about fetal development and the value God places on life. The reality of her past decisions overwhelmed her. We shared the value God places on her life and the price Jesus paid for her sins and the holiness Jesus gives to cover her. Her tears of sorrow turned into tears of joy.



Knowing I'm a slow learner, God kept teaching. The next day we spoke at a gathering of 300 Romanian youth. The public was also invited. We spoke of the value God in Christ gives to life and how we are all bought with a price and can glorify God with our bodies. We spoke of making good decisions

based on this. We spoke of forgiveness when making wrong decisions. Afterward, an elderly Romanian woman told me of an abortion she'd had years ago. Then she added, "It wasn't until this year that I learned my Jesus died for that sin too."

The next morning I spoke to a gathering of pastors. I told them the story of the elderly woman. I then asked them a question that had troubled me most of the night, **"Why did it take so long for this woman to hear the Gospel of 'her Jesus' applied to her sin of abortion?"**

God corrected my vision on that trip. I have never looked at women consider-

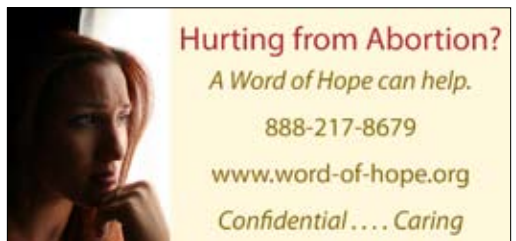
ing abortion or those who have had an abortion the same again. Oh, I'm well aware there are women who, at least outwardly, do not seem to struggle with that decision. There is a place for the Law in all of this. But that is not where I start. Just like in Romania, there is pressure on women to abort in our country. So often abortion is not what a woman wants but what she chooses when she sees no other choice.

Our message needs to be more than, "Don't do this." It needs to be, "You don't have to do this. We will help you." We can wrap the arms of Jesus around them and share His forgiveness, love, and hope. We can provide ongoing care and assistance.

Likewise, our message to those who have had an abortion needs to be more than, "You have sinned," even more than, "You are forgiven." We need to say, "You have a Savior who provides objective forgiveness and a robe of righteousness." Christ's forgiveness does not depend upon feeling forgiven or upon being able to forgive yourself. Feeling forgiven and forgiving oneself are not precursors to Christ's forgiveness. They flow from Christ's forgiveness, but the forgiveness itself was paid for by Jesus upon His cross. His holiness covers sinners and they are pure in the eyes of God.

I have much to learn, but I pray I'm at least catching on to the lesson God taught me in Romania. I will never forget what that elderly woman told me. I will never stop encouraging pastors to preach and teach about the life issues. There are many reasons to do so, but if there were just one reason to address these issues in our pulpits it would be so that those sitting in our pews oppressed by a past abortion would hear that "their Jesus" died for that sin too!

Photos from the 1996 trip to Romania (see more at www.lutheransforlife.org)



The Splendor of Grey Hair

by Rev. Trevor Keller



“Grey hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life.” So wrote a man of wisdom and experience in the book of Proverbs (16:31 NIV) around the year 10 BC. The same author also wrote, **“The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair”** (Proverbs 20:29). Both readings leaving us in no doubt, that the elderly were to receive deep respect in the communities in which they lived.

Of course grey hair is not always seen as a crown of splendor. Most people shudder at the sight of the first grey hair appearing in the mirror. They may even cry out, “Oh, I’m getting older!” Well, aren’t we all? From the point of birth we are reminded of the aging process that is a part of life. A parent is often asked, “How old is your baby? Or how old is your child?” To which we reply, “She’s three months old or he’s five years old.” In fact I’ve never heard anyone say, “My child is five years young.” The thing is, we are all caught up in the aging process. It’s a part of life and we can’t escape it. We are reminded of it, each time we look in the mirror and some days it seems to remind us more than others. And if the mirror doesn’t gently remind us the world will because there is a burgeoning industry out there flourishing by provid-



ing care and housing for the more senior members of the community.

There’s a new language that includes phrases like “Positive Aging” and “Ageism.” “Positive Aging” looks to generate positive ideas and attitudes of encouragement and assistance to enable a satisfying life and living, while “ageism” describes the negatives of discrimination, prejudice, stereotyping, and assumptions relating to a person’s age. While many of the negatives may not be deliberate in intent, they can, and do, hurt people and have a damaging effect on their self confidence and well being. I remember well, several weeks after my 50th birthday, get-

ting a letter from a large and well respected city store, offering me a special insurance policy for “aged persons.” I wasn’t at all impressed and declared that I would never set foot in that store again. It closed down about a year later. I also

remember trying to get my farmer father to retire a year or so after turning 65. But I came to realize that to put pressure on him to retire, was in fact taking away something that he loved. Farming wasn’t a job to retire from, it was a way of life he enjoyed, and thankfully he did enjoy his love of the farm for many more years.

So, how can grey hair become a crown of splendor? How can grey hairs give prestige to old age?

The best example I can offer is a person called Len who epitomizes to me what the splendor and prestige of grey hair is all about.

Football had been a part of Len's life as long as he could remember. When he was forced to retire from playing at the age of forty-eight, he knew he wanted to give something back to the game that had given him so much. Becoming a trainer seemed to be the natural line of progression for him. Not satisfied with just sitting for the normal first aid courses being offered, Len approached the local doctor for assistance, beginning a partnership that would last for many years. Through experimentation, application, and on field experiences they grew in their knowledge of sports injuries.

Len, in his navy and white stocking cap, had been assessing and treating injuries as long as the lads at the club could remember. This bent, ageless man always instilled confidence, especially in times of pain and uncertainty. On a football field, a missed diagnosis could easily mean a season on the bench and that would have spelled disaster for the young players.

It was not uncommon for Len to open his door at home both day and night to find a young man grimacing in pain, as the result of some injury incurred at training. There was only one person they knew who could help them and that was Len. And they also knew that whatever the hour, he would be there for them.

Len was driven by the desire to always learn more. He even went to the state football league course for trainers and topped the course at the age of eighty. He remained the trainer for his club until age 85, when his wife became too ill to be left on her own. However, this didn't stop his involvement. The players would call at his home, where he had a room with state of the art equipment that helped blood flow and hastened the healing of soft-tissue damage. At age ninety-two he was still assessing, advising, and treating injuries for both A- and

B-grade teams at his club.

However, all of his experience and ability couldn't prepare Len for the next battle he faced—Parkinson's disease. The wonderful thing was that he didn't face this battle alone. People from the football club took him to doctor's appointments, helped him with jam making and preserving fruit, as well as taking him to the football field, and bringing him home after a counter meal.

What a wonderful expression of positive aging. The splendor of grey hair supporting the vigor of youth, and then in return invigorated youth, leaping to the aid of an elderly man struggling to maintain the splendor grey hair had brought. A great example for us all to emulate!

It brings to mind a quote I read recently, that I think fits Len to a tee; "Some people, no matter how old they get, never lose their beauty—they merely move it from their faces to their hearts."

Or maybe the bottom line is found in the one I really like; "The key to successful aging is to pay as little attention to it as possible."

As I reflect on Len it brings to mind a word from the book of Leviticus which says, **"Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God"** (19:32 NIV).

The key to it all is respect. Respect for those who are older, respect for those who are younger, and a determination by all concerned to love and care for each other as God loves and cares for us. And all of this generated out of reverence for God.

It's then that grey hair is a crown of splendor, and as one translation of the Bible puts it, **"the award for a God-loyal life"** (The Message).

(From Face to Face, 10/3/10. www.facetoface.org.au/facetoface/. Used by permission.)

Knitting Us Together

By Kay L. Meyer



God's word says, **"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made"** (Psalm 139:13-14a).

God created our bodies, even as we grew inside our mother's womb. He knit us together in our mother's womb. The womb is an amazing place. Did you know that a baby's heart begins to beat at 18 days and the brain coordinates movements at 43 days? Did you know that all organs are functioning at eight weeks? And that the baby has permanent, individual fingerprints at nine weeks? Did you know that at 12 weeks a baby can smile, suck his or her thumb, and make a fist? Pretty amazing, isn't it?

Do you remember holding the hand of your newborn infant? If you were like me, you looked at that delicate, tiny, soft hand and compared it to your larger hand—and marveled at the amazing work of the Lord.

Hands are one of the things that babies discover early in life. You've probably watched a young baby as he holds his hand up in the air and observes it, maybe for the first time. He turns it this way and that. Usually it's an accident as he first hits the mobile above his crib. As he waves his hands in the air, he hits one of the small stuffed animals on the mobile. Soon he's figured out how his amazing

hands work. It's fun to watch. As babies get older they learn to clap their hands and place them high up in the air when they show us how big they are. Soon they have figured out how to use their hands and legs to crawl across the floor. Take time to watch a young child use his hands.

Young children can also learn to fold their hands and say "Amen" after the mealtime prayer. They learn this as they observe their parents and siblings. Here is a mealtime prayer my granddaughter taught me. We pray it together.

A.B.C.

1. 2. 3.

Thank you God for Feeding Me. Amen.



Before we know it, our babies have grown into preschoolers. Preschoolers love to play with their toys, beat the drum and musical instruments (or pots and pans!), ride their tricycles, and get their hands dirty as

they play in the sandbox or dirt. They can use their hands to touch their nose, their eyes, and their ears as you play Simon Says. By now they have also learned to point to things in the store with those precious hands and say, "Please Mommy, please Daddy, can I have that? And that? Please?"

Children use their hands more and more as they begin kindergarten. They learn to write their name, stay in the lines as they color, cut with children's scissors, raise their hands when called upon, and play with friends at recess. And they give hugs and kisses to those they love.

And as they grow older they run and play at recess, use their hands to play

dodge ball, hopscotch, and climb on the jungle gym. Once children are in the older elementary and middle school years they also enjoy playing volleyball, basketball, soccer, and baseball. They often also use their hands to learn on computers—and games!

How have you used your hands? How have your hands been used by God? If you are a parent, you've held your baby in your arms, changed his diapers, given him baths, heated his bottle, fed him, done many loads of laundry, and hugged him tight to let him know that he is loved.

As Christians, we care about the spiritual life of our children so we take them to be baptized. Through the water and the Word, the Lord makes our child His child, and gives him faith, forgiveness, and everlasting life. As your child grew you took him to worship services and Sunday school. You helped him in worship and to memorize Bible verses. You read Bible stories and sang Christian songs with him, too. And you taught him to pray at mealtime, bedtime, and just anytime.

Yes, the Lord knit us together in our mother's womb. He created our amazing bodies. He loves us with an everlasting love. The Father showed us how much He loved us by sending His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our sinful world. Jesus grew up and used His hands to serve others. He blessed the children. He healed the sick. Then He showed His love for all people by stretching out his hands and arms on the cross. He suffered and died for our sins. Then he rose from the dead. Let's praise His name. **"Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great"** (Revelation 19:5b).

LFL Family Living Resources!



Lutherans For Life has many resources for families. **Check them out under the Sanctity of Human Life tab at www.cph.org!** You can also download the *Life Resource Catalog* at the LFL website.

Here's a quick list:

Bible Studies

Dressing For Life
Men, Women, and Relationships

Booklets

Biblical Manhood
The Failure of Sex Education
Forgiven in Christ
Generations of Hope ...
Into His Loving Care
Not Alone

Brochures

A Life Not Like Any Other
Joseph and His Rib
Marriage – A Statement by LFL
Why Not Just Live Together

A Life Quote from Linda Bartlett:

"Generations to come need Lutherans who love life today! Fathers love life when they model chivalry, fidelity, courage, character, and servant-style leadership. Mothers love life when they model purity, virtue, homemaking, hospitality, and relationship-building ... Grandparents love life when they pass on stories of faith."

Jesus Doesn't Wrap Himself Around "Silly Myths"

by Linda D. Bartlett
www.titus2-4life.org



When did God say, “Educate children in sex”? I challenge you to find a passage in Scripture. While you’re looking, you will find an opposing thought. Parents are to train their children in purity. The theme of purity is woven throughout Old Testament and New.

When our sons were in elementary school, I purchased a series of “sex education” books from a Christian publisher. Something about them troubled me, so I put them on the shelf. I found a better substitute—more about chivalry and biology than “sexuality.” Of course, there is no substitute for the Bible. I was amazed to see how much God has to say about training in purity. I began to contrast God’s Word with “sex ed” textbooks and resources. The teachings were worlds apart. (Note: Other names for “sex education” include “human growth and development” or, sometimes, “family living.”)

The question for me was this: Which worldview was best for children? Some years later, speaking nationwide to young people and their parents, I realized why I had been uncomfortable with Christianized “sex education.” Jesus does not wrap Himself around worldly ideas.

“Sex education” is not a biblical teaching. It is the idea of Alfred Kinsey who coined the phrase “children are sexual from birth.” Too late, his criminal and

fraudulent research was exposed. Opinions had been shaped—in education, media, and even courts of law. If we define ourselves as “sexual” (with “needs” to be met), or “sexy” (“it’s our right”), then that’s how we’ll live. Our Creator God defines us differently.

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:27).

The first man and woman were made in God’s perfect image. God defines Himself as “holy.” Therefore, God called the bearers of His image not to a “sexy” life, but to a holy life. We all fell from perfection when sin corrupted God’s perfect image-bearers, but His original design

for male and female did not change. We are called and equipped by God to be holy (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5). Unlike animals, we are not captive to our sexual desires. Our bodies (knitted together by

God) and our lives (held in His arms) are not our own. They were “bought with a price” (1 Corinthians 6:20). That price is the blood of Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we are forgiven and set free to pursue what is good, right, and holy.

God created male and female, not to bring glory to themselves, but to Him. We do this best when we realize that God does not define us as “sexy” or instruct us to call attention to ourselves; rather, He defines us as “holy” people who help our neighbors see God.

God’s Word says, **“Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it**



holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe."

This passage from 1 Timothy 4:7-10 tells me that Jesus can't be wrapped around unholy and "silly" ideas. It is impossible for Truth to wrap Himself around foolish and destructive philosophy and practice.

Certainly, as the passage notes, we have to "toil and strive" because disconnecting ourselves from worldly influence is extremely difficult. It threatens to sap the energy right out of the most persistent Christian. Still, every father, mother, grandparent, pastor, teacher, and mentor is obligated by God's Word to train children in purity. To do otherwise is to remove the protective boundaries of modesty and expose vulnerable children to wolves—big and bold, or dressed in sheep's clothing.

Jesus doesn't wrap Himself around modern sex education. He can't. He is the Word of purity, modesty, and humility. For this reason, His Word tells older brothers that they have the responsibility to guard the purity of their younger sisters (Song of Solomon 8:8-9). If the little sister is a wall (virtuous), they are to help protect her virtue. If she has fallen into sin and is like a door (swaying open to promiscuity and harmful choices), they are to do what they can to rescue her, call her to repentance, and put a stop to her sinful behavior.

Jesus contrasts the world. He is Light; the world is dark. He is Truth; the world is myth and changing opinion. Jesus, the Word, tells us: Do **"not stir up or awaken love until it pleases"** (Song

of Solomon 3:5b). We must not disregard the order that pleases God. It is His design—for the good of all—that love be stirred, awakened, and fulfilled only in marriage between one man and one woman.

So, I challenge you to answer one question: Which practice is compatible with Jesus?

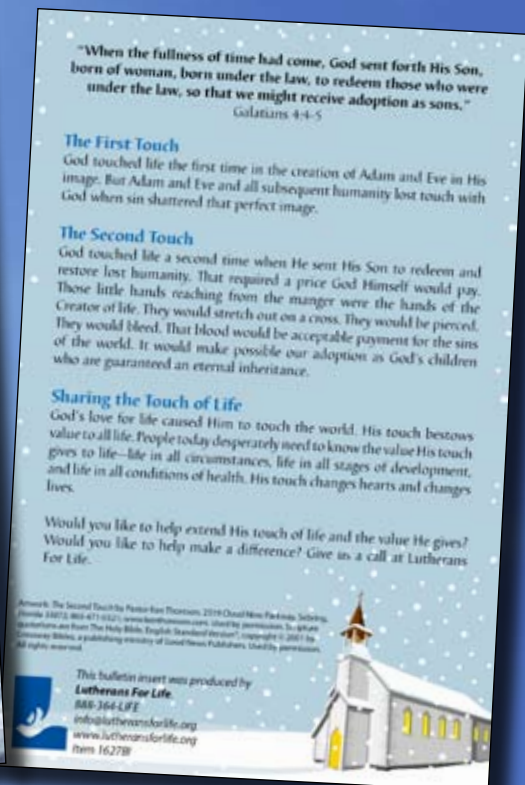
- A. Boys and girls brought together in a classroom, not to study anatomy, but to "ease inhibitions" and "comfortably" discuss all manner of "sexuality" (with timid caution to wait until marriage ... following graduation, college, and establishment of career); *or*
- B. Boys and girls taught separately to honor God's order of equal, but different sexes (two genders); mentored in biblical manhood and womanhood; equipped for the battle with temptation; and age-appropriately helped to understand God's design for procreation between one man and one woman in marriage.

Jesus is Truth. Truth cannot wrap Himself around unholy and "silly myths." To protect children from wolves (big and bold or dressed as sheep), Jesus guards walls of virtue. He rescues the hurt and repentant after doors have swung open. He tells me to do the same.

This is the love of Him who holds young ones in such high esteem.

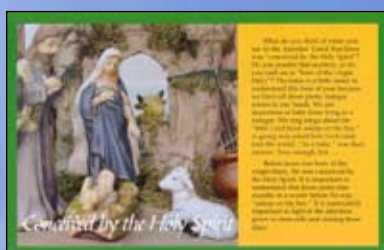


Numerous Lutherans For Life resources, by Linda D. Bartlett, are available at www.cph.org. Also check out the Titus 2 website: www.titus2-4life.org.



The Touch of Life Item LFL1627BI. \$0.07 ea.
Share the For-Life Message This Christmas!

Also available!



Conceived by the Holy Spirit
Item LFL1005BI. \$0.07 ea.

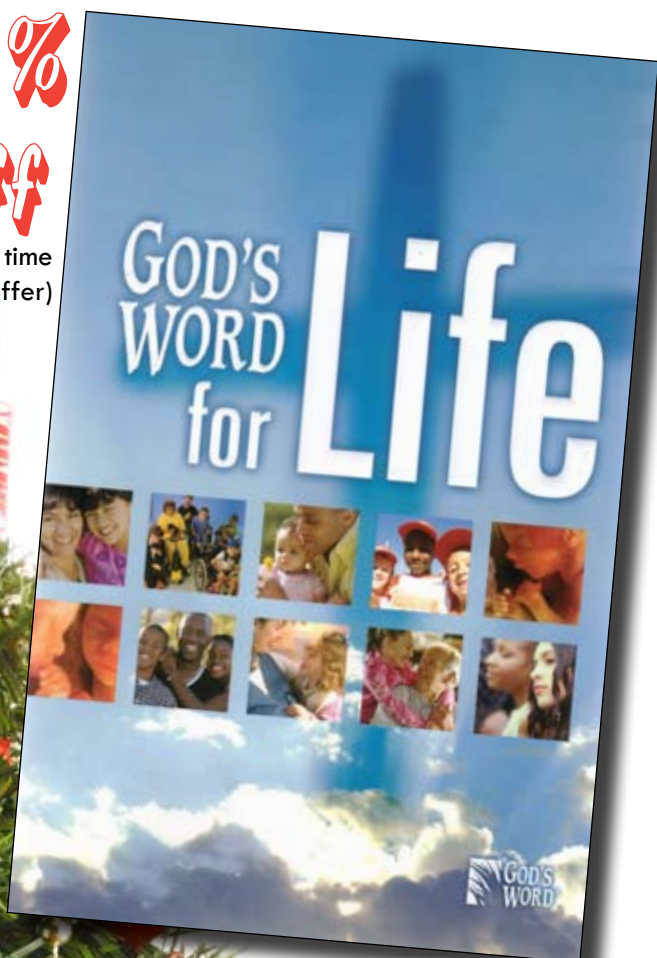
For more on these Christ-centered bulletin inserts go to www.cph.org!

Give GOD'S WORD for Christmas!

50%

Off

(limited time offer)



Paperback – Item LFL1618. **\$7.50 ea.**

Hardcover – Item LFL1619. **\$10.00 ea.**

Leather Commemorative Edition –
Item LFL1619C. **\$12.50 ea.**

**A Topical Index/
Study Guide
Bookmark
is included with
each Bible!**

**You'll find 38
commentaries on
life issues!**

France has awarded its highest honor to a disabled woman who opposes euthanasia. Maryannick Pavageau, who recovered from locked-in syndrome after a stroke, was awarded the Legion of Honor for her many years of campaigning for the rights of the disabled. Mrs. Pavageau argues that disabled people who request euthanasia are actually in need of love.

(*MercatorNet, SPUC, 11/2*)

Virginia Ironside, the writer and TV pundit, said in October that she would suffocate to death a suffering child.

Mrs. Ironside's comments were made during a morning talk-show broadcast live on the BBC. Minutes before this, she praised the abortion of unwanted or disabled children as a "moral" act. The BBC has received a number of complaints from shocked viewers. Anthony Ozimic, of the SPUC, said Mrs. Ironside's comments prove that the possibility of abortion and euthanasia leads to a coarsening of consciences and a hardening of hearts. (*Daily Mail, 10/5; SPUC, 10/8*)

An attack on the right of conscientious objection in the Council of Europe has been defeated. The Council's parliamentary assembly voted on a report that recommended a crack-down on medical personnel who refuse to be complicit in abortion and other unethical procedures. The report was totally reversed from a pro-abortion attack on conscientious objection to a defense of conscientious objection. Anthony Ozimic, Society for the Protection of Unborn Children's communications manager, said the outcome was an incredible victory for the rights of staff in medical institutions. (*John Smeaton, 10/7; SPUC, 10/8*)

A number of physicians in the UK

have formed a group called Healthcare Professionals for Change (HPC), which will lobby for the legalization of assisted suicide. Dr. McPherson, chairman of the HPC, says she believes terminally-ill people should be allowed to choose to die at home at the time of their choosing. Anthony Ozimic, from the SPUC, quoted Dr. Christoph Hufeland that when a doctor steps outside their vocation to preserve life, he becomes the most dangerous man in the state. (*Telegraph, 10/3; SPUC, 10/8*)

Recent reports say a healthy baby boy was born last May in Britain from an embryo frozen for nearly 20 years.

The child's 42-year-old mother underwent infertility treatment for 10 years

before the embryo was given to her last year. The medical journal

Fertility and Sterility reported the news. British lawmakers recently extended the period that embryos can be placed in storage to up to 55 years. The baby boy was born from a group of five embryos cryopreserved in 1990 in the

U.S. by a couple who no longer needed them after undergoing *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) treatment. This latest birth beats the previous record set by a Spanish woman who gave birth to a boy after he had been frozen as an embryo for 13 years. (*www.myfoxny.com, 10/10; CLR Life News, 10/13*)

A mother has argued that IVF has become an exploitative industry. Charlotte Metcalf, who conceived naturally aged 45, highlighted the massive failure rate of IVF and its related emotional cost to women. Mrs. Metcalf also highlighted the high monetary cost of IVF. (*Daily Mail, 10/30; SPUC, www.spuc.uk.org, 11/2*)



LifeDate: All About Equipping!

Dear LifeDate Friend,

LifeDate is an awesome resource, isn't it? Did you know that LifeDate is a complimentary resource of LFL? It is mailed to over 35,000 people each time it is produced. Even though it is sent to all these people, only 10,000 of those who receive it are LFL supporters. This resource helps LFL accomplish the mission: **Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices for Life.**

Maybe you are one of the people who have enjoyed reading this resource for many years. We're glad you enjoy it and have been equipped through it. Because we want to continue to send this resource to every person who requests it, we are asking for your prayers and financial support. Here's why:

Lutherans For Life has fallen significantly behind on the 2010 budget which is \$905,000. And, so, we invite you to send a special year end gift to support us.

LFL's fiscal year ends December 31. There is much catching up to do if we are going to end the year in the black. As of this writing, we are \$135,000 behind our budget projections. Will you help us accomplish this goal? You can use the enclosed envelope or give online at www.lutheransforlife.org.

God's Word tells us, **"Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come ... and save you'"** (Isaiah 35:4). We know as Christians that God did come. The Father sent His only begotten Son into our world as a newborn baby to save us from our sins, take our punishment, and give us eternal life.

LFL will continue to promote life from the womb to the tomb. We plan to expand our work and resources. With your help we will do this in 2011 and beyond. Working together we will take courage and fear not. Our God reigns! Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this request.

In His Service and yours,

Kay Meyer

Director of Development



God's People are Cheerful Givers!



by Kay L. Meyer

God's Word has a lot to say about money.

"Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness ... As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life" (1 Timothy 6:6-11, 17-19).

Maybe you, like me, have often heard the phrase, God loves a cheerful giver. Just what is a cheerful giver? Does being a cheerful giver mean giving to everyone who asks? Certainly not. But, what then does it mean to be a cheerful giver? Here are some of my thoughts about how to be a cheerful giver:

- Cheerful givers know that their salvation is complete because of what Christ has done for them. He suffered and died for all of our sins. And has granted us forgiveness and eternal life as a free gift. We can be joyous and thankful because of this salvation.
- Cheerful givers should give first to their own congregation. This is where they are fed spiritually. Then, as the Lord leads them, to other non-profit organizations.
- Cheerful givers pray first and ask the Lord to help and guide them in their decisions about how they will give and to whom they will give.
- Cheerful givers are not reluctant to ask non-profit organizational leaders for their financial reports so you can see how they use their funds. Many non-profits post their federal government 990 report on their website. An annual report should always be available to those who request it.
- Cheerful givers donate to charities that touch their hearts. They are often passionate about the work these organizations do. So, if you love ani-

mals, then you might want to give to a local animal shelter. If you love children, then you might want to give to charities that help or serve low-income children. If you love evangelism, then you might want to give to organizations that share the Gospel beyond the walls of the Church and help equip people to witness. And, if you love Life, from the womb to the tomb, then you will want to support Lutherans For Life and other pro-life organizations.



The quoted verse also says, “**For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil.**” Note that this verse doesn’t say “money is the root of all evil,” but rather that the “love of money” is the root of all evil. Don’t put your faith in money.

Let’s be content with what the Lord gives us. And be cheerful givers!

How Can You Provide For Your Family, Loved Ones, and LFL?

Lutherans For Life has a Christian estate planner, Jim Schroeder, who can offer comprehensive, charitable expertise and services to help you provide for your family, loved ones, and ministries like Lutherans For Life.

Annually, thousands of faithful Christians just like you support a variety of Lutheran ministries through:

- Gift Annuities
- Direct Gifts
- Wills
- Family Gift Funds
- Endowments and Trusts

Contact Kay Meyer at 515-441-6571 or kmeyer@lutheransforlife.org.

- ☐ I would like more information about how I can bless my family and my favorite ministries for generations to come.

☐ I would like more information about how I can support Lutherans For Life.

☐ I would like to have someone review my current will or estate plan.

☐ Send information on: ☐ gift annuities ☐ family gift funds ☐ endowment fund ☐ charitable trusts ☐ Christian will preambles ☐ bequests

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

E-mail

Send to LFL (see address on page 2).

Your Footprints

*by Jim Schroeder,
Christian Estate
Planning Counselor*



Everyone leaves footprints on the sands of time. Our prints are made by the imprints of our lives on others. A person is remembered for the weight of his or her character. For marks of accomplishment. For acts of kindness. For generosity. For values.

When we leave positive impressions behind, we enhance the lives of our friends and loved ones. We give them footprints to follow.

Thoughtful estate planning is one means to leave a footprint in the sand, to help others recall our priorities. For example, consider the effect of a plan that includes provisions for family members and resources for ministries like Lutherans For Life.

An estate gift makes a positive statement.

When you include Lutherans for Life in the final disposition of your estate, you declare to your family and friends that you believe in and care about the mission of Lutherans for Life. Your parting gift becomes a clear declaration of your values.

An estate gift provides needed funding for Lutherans for Life.

Estate gifts are especially valuable, not only because they tend to be larger than annual gifts, but because they often come at a critical time for a ministry like Lutherans for Life. They provide that extra boost to the budget that can make the difference between program advancement and program retrenchment.

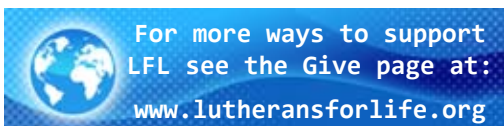
Estate gifts can be designated for a specific purpose or can be unrestricted for use where needed most. They can be directed to the Lutherans for Life Endowment Fund that perpetually provides an ongoing witness to your friends and loved ones that you believe in the work of Lutherans for Life.

An estate gift encourages imitation.

There's something about a well-planned estate gift that influences others to "go and do likewise." As friends and family members plan their own estates, they may recall your generosity and thoughtfulness. Your gift may unlock resources for Luther-

ans for Life from other estates.

As Lutherans for Life's Christian Estate Planning Counselor, I am available to provide you with personal assistance in working with your attorney and other advisors in planning your estate. To arrange for assistance contact me at jschroeder@lutheransforlife.org or 877-913-2221.



Renewal in 2011

by Jerilyn Richard,
RFL Coordinator



“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-18).



We are very excited about the direction Renewal For Life will be taking in 2011! We have been working diligently on a new Strategic Plan here at Lutherans For Life so that we can better provide tools and resources to carry out the For Life mission. Our goal, as we work together with you to share this vital message, is to provide relevant, updated, and user-friendly resources and guidance to move forward and reach those around us with this message.

One big thing in the works is our new RFL online library! There have been challenges and obstacles to go through to get the site ready, but it has all paid off, and we now have an awesome resource to share with you.

Our new online Forum offers pastors and Life Advocates a way to reach out to other congregations to ask questions and share and listen to advice with those who are dealing with the same life issues. Life Advocates can find tools specific for their mission by clicking on the Life Advocate Training link. Dr. Lamb, executive direc-



Renewal For Life

tor of LFL, offers suggestions and guidance in the monthly *Paraclete* newsletter. (*Paraclete* can be viewed at the Life Advocate link along with more helpful hints.) PowerPoint® presentations, audio/visual files, Bible studies and much more are also included in the new site. If your congregation hasn't had the opportunity to view the RFL site, please call the Life Center for more information on how you can sign up.

Also in the works is our newly designed training program that will provide more help and guidance for RFL Life Advocates and Life Advocate Teams. There is still much to do to bring this to fruition, but we are excited for the opportunities ahead to work more closely with our grassroots as we serve the Lord of life together.

Is your congregation involved in RFL? We could use your help! As we continue with strategic planning, any suggestions, advice, and requests you may have for us to better fulfill our mission to “Equip congregations to be Gospel-motivated voices for life” would be welcomed and appreciated!



“[S]peaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love” (Ephesians 4:15-16).

Bringing Life to Russia and Latvia

by Rev. Don Richman,
LFL International
Representative



Don Richman travels often to Russia and Eastern Europe. Here is a recent update on opportunities he has had to apply God's Word to the life issues.

The last time I spoke in a church in the St. Petersburg area I had about an hour to teach. Based on the assumption that some—maybe most—of the women in my audience had had at least one abortion, I started with reference to the cross of Christ and the forgiveness that He offers. I then went into a biblical presentation using Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 8:5; Psalm 139:13-14; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, etc. I wanted to establish the biblical foundations for the sanctity of life.

Then I shared biological facts—i.e. heart beats at 18 days, brain waves at 40 days, etc. I have a big chart—which gets a lot of use—that shows the development from conception and passage through the fallopian tubes all the way to nine months. It is very helpful.

After sharing these facts, I moved on to the genetic development of the baby (i.e. all genetic information is present at conception—nothing more is added from the mother).

Again, at the end I came back with the message of the Cross. We also shared



one of Shari Richard's DVDs in which she talks about having had an abortion, and which includes two or three others who tell their story. I want to get that DVD translated into Russian. (*LFL offers a number of resources on fetal development including Shari Richard's DVD "Eyewitness 2 – The Next Generation."*)

Although there were only eight people there, one was the pastor, who was very supportive. Another was a university professor who wants me to speak to her class the next time I come and another was a university student who wants me to speak to his all-male class. I will arrange for this when I come back in May.

We also had our conference in Latvia again. It went very well. I took a new ultrasound machine with me for their use. During the conference, a gynecologist did a live demonstration of how it works. This doctor had recently quit the clinic she worked with because of their pro-abortion policies and started her own office. She will do free ultrasounds and pro-life consultation for any clients our pro-life people send to her. The ultrasound has added a new, positive dimension to the work in Latvia—thanks to Shari Richard's help!

Regardless of what I teach—whether on prayer, or the Church, or the way of salvation—I almost always find a way to bring in the pro-life message. We do need to update our materials in Russia—including color material. **If you would like to help fund this special project, please contact Lutherans For Life!**

I want to thank Lutherans For Life for the support and materials that make my work possible.

Join us in Texas!!



The 2011 LFL National Conference is set for August 5-6, at the Sheraton Grand DFW Airport Hotel in Irving, Texas.

The theme is **Adopted in Christ**. Dr. Russell Moore, author of *Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families and Churches*, is our keynote speaker.

We have secured permission to show the award-winning pro-life movie *Bella*. We are hoping to have one of the stars of *Bella* at our conference! Keep checking the LFL website for the latest news.

Christian singer-songwriter Heather Ruesch from Brainerd, Minnesota, is excited to bring a musical component to our conference. Heather has her own “Bella” story. You can check it out on the 2011 conference page at www.lutheransforlife.org.

Registration info will be in the next *LifeDate* and on the LFL website.



“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:4-5).

Looking for a way to make a significant gift to LFL, but financially don't think it's possible? If you have a paid-up life insurance policy, you might be able to give that donation on a tax-favored basis.

Many of us purchased life insurance when we were young. Now that we're older, we may not need it. If this describes your situation, you can use that life insurance to make a significant charitable gift to LFL or another charitable organization of your choice. Here's how:

1. Name Lutherans For Life as the beneficiary of an existing policy—either sole beneficiary, or co-beneficiary or a contingent beneficiary.
2. Donate an obsolete policy, one that you no longer need for its original intent.
3. Or buy a new policy and donate it to a charitable organization like ours, then continue to pay the premiums. The donations to Lutherans For Life for the premiums are generally deductible on your income tax return.
4. Replace a bequest with life insurance, so you can make a substantial contribution now without reducing your family's eventual inheritance.

Life insurance is an asset that allows a donor who doesn't have large estate assets to make a significant gift. To learn more contact Kay Meyer of Lutherans For Life at 515.441.6571.

LFL Speakers Bureau

Do you need a speaker? Check out the Speakers Bureau page at the LFL website to find out more!

A variety of formats are available from a single presentation or sermon to a multi-day series of workshops.

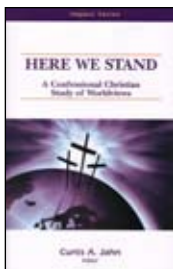


Staff speaker: James I. Lamb

Affiliated speakers:

Jean Amundson
Linda D. Bartlett
Paul M. Clark
Connie Davis
Daniel M. Domke
John Eidsmoe
Peter B. Greenspan
Anthony Horvath
Kimberly Ketola
Sheila Luck
Ryan C. MacPherson
Betty McGuire
Allen Quist
Russell E. Saltzman
Alvin J. Schmidt
Carl F. Schroeder
Diane E. Schroeder
Ed Szeto

Booknote! Several LFL Speakers Bureau members have contributed to an excellent new book published by Northwestern Publishing House. It's called *Here We Stand – Confessional Christian Study of Worldviews*, edited by Curtis A. Jahn. Contributors include John Eidsmoe, Ryan Cameron MacPherson, Allan Quist, and Alvin J. Schmidt.



You Can Make a Difference For Life!

Please call (515.441.6571) or e-mail (kmeyer@lutheransforlife.org) if you would like to learn more about any of these giving options.



Lutherans For Life does not receive financial support from any church body. Your individual gifts provide for the annual and long-term needs of LFL.

Give online:

www.lutheransforlife.org

Automatic Bank Drafts:

Many banks offer electronic funds transfer from checking/savings accounts.

Matching Gifts:

Does your employer have a matching gift program? Ask them to include LFL as a qualified charity!

Planned Gifts:

LFL can provide info on trusts, annuities, and other plans. Consider including LFL in your will. (See page 25.)

Online Shopping Rebate Program:

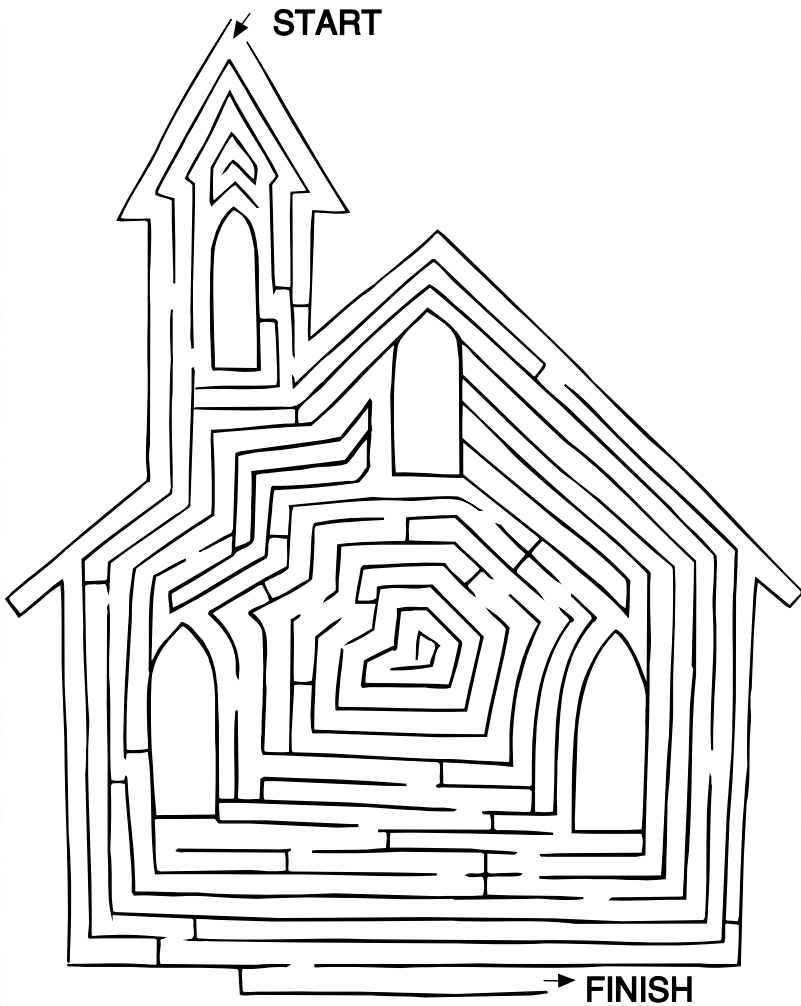
Check out iGive.com at the LFL web site.

Combined Federal Campaign:



If you are a federal employee or member of the US military (or have family or friends who are) designate "Lutherans For Life" when making your pledge—and let others know about this unique opportunity! **The CFC identification number for LFL is 11508.**

Your church is one place you can learn that **every life is precious to God**. Work your way through the church below!



Life Thoughts in the Church Year are designed to help pastors and congregations see the church year through the lens of the sanctity of human life. **Life Thoughts** are based on the appointed readings from *Lutheran Service Book*.

January 2 – Second Sunday after Christmas – Today’s readings focus on wisdom. God gives Solomon wisdom (1 Kings 3:4-15). Boy Jesus increases in wisdom (Luke 2:40-52). The Father gives us “wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will” (Ephesians 1:8-9). We base the choices we make on this wisdom, the wisdom of knowing what God has done for us in Christ, not on the “wisdom” of the world.

January 9 – Baptism of our Lord – Our baptism unites us with Christ. We are baptized into Him (Romans 6:1-5). We live in Christ as the unborn child lives in the womb. The unborn lives in and is surrounded by amniotic fluid. We live in and are surrounded by grace. The unborn is protected in the womb. We are protected in Christ. The unborn receives nourishment and strength through the umbilical cord. We receive our nourishment and strength through the sacraments. “In Christ”—it’s not a bad way to live!

January 16 – Second Sunday after the Epiphany – Some congregations may observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday today. Whether you do or not, Isaiah 49:1-7 gives opportunity to point out that the Servant of the Lord (Jesus), like so many of those who were called to proclaim the Good News, was called from the womb, named in the womb, formed in the womb. It appears that God viewed these little unborn humans as persons! And so He continues to view those not yet born. Shouldn’t we?

January 23 – Third Sunday after the Epiphany – I’m guessing the “people dwelling in darkness” and in the “shadow of death” (Matthew 4:16) never realized the shadowy darkness until the Light dawned on them. The darkness of the sin of abortion has been over our land for thirty-eight years now. To some, it doesn’t seem like darkness at all but as “light.” Others recognize the darkness of this sin, and for some its dark reality is very

real and personal. The Church is called to shine the great light of Christ upon this sin to reveal the depth of its darkness and to bring healing to those trapped in its shadow.

January 30 – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany – Paul engages in name calling. He calls his readers “foolish,” “weak,” “despised” (1 Corinthians 1:27-28). Sounds a bit like the epitaphs sometimes hurled at Christians today. But Paul is not insulting Christians; he is boasting in the Lord. For God chose foolish, weak, and despised things through which to reveal His wisdom and grace in the world. The greatest example is Jesus who was “despised and rejected by men” (Isaiah 53:3). So when the world berates you for standing up for God’s truth, rejoice and “boast in the Lord” (1:31).



February 6 – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany – Salt does little good if left in the shaker. Jesus charges His followers to be the “salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13) not “salt of the pews.” It is good to gather with our fellow “grains of salt.” That’s where we renew our “saltiness.” But we cannot influence the world from our pews. This world desperately needs our influence to preserve truth, morality, and human worth. This world desperately needs our influence to point them to the *source* of truth, morality, and human worth—Jesus Christ, Son of God.

February 13 – Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany – God tells His people, “I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live” (Deuteronomy 30:19). He exhorts them to choose life but there is no exhortation to choose blessing. That’s because blessings flow from the choice of life. Choosing life over death will always be blessed by God.

February 20 – Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany – The “love your neighbor” thing is not good enough for Jesus. “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:44). Loving and praying for enemies and persecutors may not turn them into neighbors, but it sure makes you a good one—“sons of your Father

who is in heaven” (6:45). That makes Jesus—who loved you while you were His enemy—your brother! Even enemies of Christ and enemies of life need to be loved and prayed for.

February 27 – Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany – “Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb?” (Isaiah 49:15) I answer “Never!” and I believe that is the answer God implies here. The bond between a mother and her unborn baby is so strong and so intimate that when that bond is broken by misfortune or by choice, there is no forgetting. But even if such a forgetting could happen, God never forgets us—never! Even those who are trying to forget a terrible choice, through repentance and forgiveness in Christ, can find themselves engraved in the palms of God’s hands (49:16).

March 6 – The Transfiguration of our Lord – Oh to have been there! How it would have strengthened our faith to see Jesus in His heavenly glory and to hear the very voice of God bear witness to His Son. But wait! “We have something more sure, the prophetic word” (2 Peter 1:19). Peter, who did witness that glorious scene, reminds his readers and us that we have not been short changed. What Peter saw was good. What we have is better! We do not need glorious events to bolster our faith. We have the Word of Christ which points us to the glory of the cross and the

glory that awaits.

March 13 – First Sunday in Lent – “Take the easy way out!” That was the essence of Satan’s temptations of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11). “Do you want to be great, Jesus, and have a following? You don’t have to go to a cross to do that.” “Take the easy way out. Avoid pain and suffering at all costs.” Satan still uses that temptation today to lead people to think death is the solution to their problems. But Jesus resisted Satan with the Word and defeated him with the cross. He is the way out!

March 20 – Second Sunday in Lent – Faith in God’s love for us through Christ brings eternal life (John 3:16). Faith in God’s love for us through Christ brings strength and help for living this life. God will not abandon those for whom He paid such a holy price. This is our hope as we deal with life’s struggles and pains. God’s love is certain *no matter what!* You can believe it!

March 27 – Third Sunday in Lent – Loving the unlovable—a sinful, Samaritan woman—boldly confronting sin—“Go call your husband,”—mercifully revealing salvation—“I who speak to you am he” (John 4:16-26). Jesus demonstrates a pattern worth repeating and repeating and repeating as we deal with sin and sinners as the Body of Christ.



Here's how you can
keep life issues before
your congregation!



Life News bulletin inserts help keep your congregation informed on life issues every month! To subscribe call 888-364-LIFE. \$5.00 per 100 copies/per month.

Now is Not the Time to Shrink Back

by Diane E. Schroeder



My article for this edition of LifeDate is a summary of what I shared during my national LFL conference talk in July. (I hope to see you August 5-6, 2011, in Irving, Texas, for our next conference!)

A Barna study released in June 2010 revealed some interesting insights regarding public opinion about abortion.

- Abortion continues to split the nation. With 49 percent preferring to keep it legal verses 42 percent who would make it illegal.
- Fifty-seven percent of Americans take a [so-called] moderate stance on abortion, suggesting that Americans are more likely these days to take a “middle ground” or “not sure” position toward abortion than in the past.
- Faith remains a significant indicator. Among evangelical Christians, 78 percent believe that the practice of abortion should be illegal in all or most cases, 72 percent of atheists and agnostics support keeping the practice legal. Roman Catholics support keeping abortion legal (53 percent to 36 percent) as do mainline Protestants (53 percent to 40 percent).

Public opinion still supports legal abortion and legal protection for the unborn does not appear likely anytime soon.

The pro-life movement has been compared to the fight against slavery in the United States. Slavery was legal in the U.S. for over 250 years. The issue was actively debated for 100 years prior to Lincoln’s 1863 *Emancipation Proclamation*. In 2011, *Roe v. Wade* is only 38 years old. For-Life ministries such as Lutherans For Life must remain viable and prepare for the long haul. We must be keepers of our flame. What can you do?

- Be a people of prayer. We are in a spiritual battle for the lives of God’s children and we need to use spiritual weapons. Resolve to pray daily for the women who are actively seeking abortion, our political leaders, and abortionists.
- Raise up the next generation of For-Life Lutherans. Instruct your children, nieces, nephews, and God-children, equipping and training them for work in the life movement.
- Recommit yourself to do something! Be more than a hand wringer. Help your pastor, teachers, congregational leaders, and church organizations begin a life focus within your church.
- Check your attitude. Speak the truth in love and demonstrate compassion toward others. Help women in crisis pregnancies and reach out to others with post-abortion healing.
- Use your resources of time and treasure. Volunteer at the caring pregnancy center. Sup-

port Lutherans For Life and other life ministries with your gifts—both talent and treasure.

We don't know when the horror of abortion will end, but we do know that it will because God is in charge and abortion grieves Him greatly. We need to plan and work now to continue to bring our For-Life message to our churches and the world.



God has blessed us with the gift of ministry and the gift of purpose. He has called us to defend His precious children, the unborn, handicapped, and the elderly.

Let us not shrink from that calling, but be more forward working now while we can, praying, planning and working to carry the torch of life into the future until the victory is finally won!

“They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful” Revelation 17:14.



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.

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 witness, from a biblical perspective, to the Church and society on these and other related issues such as chastity, post-abortion healing, and family living.

National LFL Board of Directors

Diane E. Schroeder, President – Lombard, Illinois
 Rodney Rathmann, Vice-President – Eureka, Missouri
 Jean Amundson, Secretary, State Representative – Cleburne, Texas
 Richard A. Greiner, Treasurer – Dansville, Michigan
 Patricia Ballman – Hico, Texas
 Connie Davis, State Representative – Macomb, Michigan
 John Eidsmoe – Pikes Road, Alabama
 Rev. Mark Erickson – Fergus Falls, Minnesota
 Renee Gibbs – Saint Louis, Missouri
 Rev. Everette E. Greene – Cincinnati, Ohio
 Gary Mrosko – Faribault, Minnesota
 Jeanne Strubbe, State Representative, Chapin, Illinois
 Elizabeth Valente – Clark Lake, Michigan

LFL Council of State Federation Presidents

Allan Benson, (Northern) Illinois – Rockford
 Jeanne Strubbe, (Central and Southern) Illinois – Chapin
 Clarence Zimmer, Indiana – Cambridge City
 Karen Frohwein, Iowa – State Center
 Jeanne Mackay, Kansas – Lenexa
 Connie Davis, Michigan – Macomb
 Diane Albers, Missouri – Saint Louis
 Helen Lewis, Montana – Great Falls
 Elaine Schardt, Nebraska – Carleton
 Jolene Richardson, North Dakota – Fargo
 Lynette Auch, South Dakota – Lesterville
 Jean Amundson, Texas – Cleburne
 Rev. David Emmons, Wisconsin – Turtle Lake

LFL has 12 state federations, 138 local chapters, 158 Life Ministry Coordinators, and 51 Life Advocates in the United States.



Lutherans
For Life

1120 South G Avenue • Nevada, IA 50201-2774 • ISSN 1098-5859

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Des Moines, IA
Permit No. 4839

