

Spring 2010

# LifeDate

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

## Infertility: Hope in the Midst of Pain



Inside LifeDate ...

**Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb**  
Hope for the Infertile Couple  
*Really Good News*

**Kay L. Meyer**  
Speak the Truth of Life in Love

**Diane E. Schroeder**  
The Church and Abortion  
Infertility ... a personal story

page 3

**Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb**

Hope for the Infertile Couple

pages 4-5

**Abortion/Post-Abortion/Alternatives**

Diane E. Schroeder: The Church and Abortion

pages 6-10

**Bioethics and Creation**

Rev. Roger Sonnenberg: Infertility:

Hope in the Midst of Pain

Rev. Dr. Robert W. Weise: The Pain of Infertility

Chuck Colson: Deadly Utility: Funding Embryo-Destructive Research

pages 11-13

**Family Living**

Rev. Mark Jeske: I'm So Confused

Linda D. Bartlett: No More NFW

pages 14-17

**Life Sunday**

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb: *Really Good News*

Kay L. Meyer: Speak the Truth of Life in Love

Rev. Mark Milatz: 42 Reasons

page 18

**World News**

pages 19-21

**LFL Resources**

pages 22-23

**End-of-Life**

Rev. John Henderson: The Hidden Life

pages 24-27

**Spotlight on Lutherans For Life**

Jerilyn Richard: Renewal For Life® in 2010

LFL at the March for Life

Rev. Don Richman: Lutherans For Life – Latvia

page 28

**Just For Kids**

page 29-35

**2010 Memorials and Honorariums**

pages 36-37

**Life Thoughts in the Church Year**

page 38

**Diane E. Schroeder**

Infertility ... a personal story



Lutherans For Life



**Lutherans For Life's mission is to witness to the sanctity of human life, through education, based on the Word of God.**

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## Hope for the Infertile Couple



by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

Infertile couples relate to Rachel's cry, **"Give me children, or I shall die!"** (Genesis 30:1). The desire for children is strong. Technologies offer hope, but can also be disappointing. However, that does not mean the Christian couple is without hope.

Assisted reproductive technology (ART) offers hope for dealing with infertility. But ART does not always work and may present moral and spiritual problems. Infertile couples need a hope that does not fail.

### What God Does Not Promise

Such hope can be found only in Jesus and His promises. But first it is important to note what God does *not* promise. Nothing in Scripture promises that children are a right. Children are an "inheritance" from God (Psalm 127:3). The granting of an inheritance depends upon the will and goodness of the giver.

God gives life (Job 12:10) and opens and closes wombs (Genesis 20:18; 29:31) according to His purpose. God closed Sarai's womb to emphasize Isaac as a child of promise (Galatians 4:27-28), and Elizabeth's to show the importance of John the Baptist. Christian couples should never feel that infertility is punishment for sin. Christ took the curse of sin (Galatians 3:13) and suffered its punishment (Isaiah 53:5). Infertility results from sin in general that subjects our bodies to imperfections. Certainly infertility can be the consequence of bad choices, but most often it is due to circumstances over which couples have little control.

As painful as infertility is, there is no promise that couples are entitled to conceive and bear children. Nor are they free to pursue technologies outside the "one flesh" union of

husband and wife (Genesis 2:24) or those that involve the destruction of life. Sometimes Christians are called to accept their infertility as an opportunity to strengthen their faith and be a witness to others.

### Hope that Does not Fail

The unfailing promises of God are so important! We turn frequently to Romans 8:28: **"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."** In spite of sin and imperfection, God carries out His plan for His people. God's plan for an infertile couple might be a child for them to parent through adoption.

Proverbs 3:5-6 gives another hope-filled promise: **"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."** Childlessness is hard to deal with. Leaning too heavily on our own understanding can either lead to hopelessness or to remedies that may not please God.

Abram and Sarai, for example, tried to deal with infertility by having Abram impregnate Sarai's servant, Hagar. It only led to strife. Real hope comes from trusting that God directs our steps (Proverbs 16:9). I remember a childless couple God led to be "parents" and spiritual mentors to hundreds of children. They taught Sunday School for a total of 85 years!

A final and foundational promise: **"God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him."** (1 John 4:9). Infertile couples may have doubts and fears. But they need not doubt God's love or fear being forsaken. God assures us of His love, not by blessings that He gives or withholds, but by the cross where He "purchased and won" us. God assures us of His presence through the empty tomb. People loved by an ever present God are never without hope!

## The Church and Abortion



by Diane E. Schroeder

I heard it again last night.

“My church doesn’t talk about abortion. My pastor knows that there are women who have had abortions sitting in our pews and he doesn’t want to hurt them.”

Very sad—the Church denying women and men forgiveness and healing because talking about abortion might make someone feel bad. It’s more than sad. It’s a missed opportunity to apply the Gospel where forgiveness and healing is desperately needed!

In a Life Sunday sermon at a local Lutheran congregation, Dr. Lamb said the following:

“For those of you who have sinned against life through abortion, I have one thing to say to you. Welcome. It’s not the sin of abortion that separates us from God, but sin of which we *all* are guilty.”

Several weeks later, a woman called Dr. Lamb and confessed that she and her husband were guilty of the particular sin of abortion. They had heard many Life Sunday sermons, but never before the message of forgiveness. For the first time they felt included, forgiven, and set free of the guilt that had plagued them for years.

And at my own congregation, our pastor received an anonymous letter after he addressed the issue of abortion in a sermon.

Dear Pastor,

Where can I begin to thank you? I attended church ... this past Sunday. As usual, I was forcing myself to go. I must admit once again I had been feeling like the ultimate sinner as I have felt most of my life since the abortion. I want to just tell you that your sermon feels like it has changed my life. ... I have always felt like God should punish me, and many times I think He has, for my terrible choices ... I cried

when you had us all stand at the end of the sermon. Thank you again. I will be attending services. I finally feel safe thanks to the

truth you shared in your sermon. We need someone to speak for us. God bless you.”

We shouldn’t need a ministry such as Word of Hope (888-217-8679; [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)) to heal women and men from abortion. But abortion is often a secret sin that many are unwilling to talk about—even in the Church. According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, 70 percent of women obtaining abortions describe themselves as Christian. The Church needs to proclaim “your sin is forgiven” to those who have been ensnared in the evil of abortion. To our pastors who courageously preach and teach it, God bless you. For those who have not yet done so, please, for the sake of the women and men in our pews, do it.



**Hurting from Abortion?**  
*A Word of Hope can help.*  
 888-217-8679  
[www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)  
*Confidential . . . Caring*

**Here's why taking a stand For Life matters:**



**In the United States alone, 3,500 unborn babies are killed through abortion every day.**

Source: National Right to Life Committee



**Everyday, women and men are left hurting and grieving due to an abortion decision.**

**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 405B. \$1.00 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! Spanish.  
*Item 403T. \$0.25 ea.*



**The Secret Pain** – For many people, abortion is not a debate—it is a loss—of a son, a daughter, a grandchild. That's because motherhood and fatherhood—even grandparenthood—begin at conception. By Linda Bartlett.  
*Item 405T. \$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 404T. FREE*

## Infertility: Hope in the Midst of Pain

by Rev. Roger Sonnenberg



She would ask me, “Pastor, are there going to be any baptisms this month?” If I said there was, Jennifer would be noticeably absent from worship. In the Infertility Support Group she confessed it was too difficult to go to church on those Sundays where a baptism took place, not because she wasn’t happy for the new parents and the rebirth taking place, but simply because the baby reminded her of her empty womb—her infertility. “After church, my husband scolds me for my tears,” she said, “but he doesn’t fully feel what I’m feeling ... no one really understands.” As she spoke the words, another woman in the support group came over, embraced her, and crying said, “I understand ... I thought I was the only one who felt the way you did.”

My wife and I were one of those couples in the special support group. As part of our family ministry program, our church had organized a special support group for couples struggling with infertility. Though many of our friends seemed to genuinely care about our infertility, we felt few really understood. Some would even attempt to offer us hope, but their “hopeful” words would sometimes only make the situation worse. For example, one of our friends said in a joking way, “Well, we know all the tests must be difficult, but it sure must be fun trying.” Several church friends suggested, “Have you ever just thought, maybe it’s God’s will

for you not to have any more children? He might have other plans for you.”

Ultimately, after exhausting our savings, consulting with three specialists, doing one procedure after another, we gave up trying to have a second child. We concluded that though we could not trace God, we needed to simply trust Him. However, until the Spirit of God leads anyone to such a conclusion, couples may pursue God-pleasing ways of getting pregnant. Since my wife and I sought such help (almost 20 years ago), there have been wonderful advancements in treating infertility.

### Definition of Infertility

It is generally thought that infertility is defined as a couple’s inability to become pregnant after one year of sex without using birth control. Of all couples who have not conceived after a year, about half will go on to conceive naturally in the following year. Those who are 35 and older, however, may not want to wait the extra year before seeking testing and treatment.

Infertility has many causes that involve either the women’s, the man’s, or both partners’ reproductive systems. These reasons vary from low sperm count to endometriosis. Because many couples have waited until they’re older to start a family, the rate of infertility has increased over the years.

### New Hope

Life is a gift from God. One of God’s present day miracles is that through specialists, doctors, medicine, and special procedures, this miracle continues to happen. There are countless procedures now available which of-



fer hope for infertile couples. Though some procedures may present some ethical issues, it is important to remember that many of them do not and are God-given means to facilitate what He ultimately always makes happen—life itself.

In my book, *Human Sexuality: A Christian Perspective* (CPH, 1998), I speak of some of the options available.

In the *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) procedures, eggs and sperm are mixed in a laboratory dish to fertilize, and one or more of the resulting embryos is then transferred to the woman's uterus. Gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT) involves mixing the sperm and eggs outside the body and placing them into the woman's fallopian tubes for fertilization rather than in a sterile dish. Fertilization occurs naturally which is often more acceptable to some. Zygote intrafallopian transfer (ZIFT) combines the IVF and GIFT procedures. Eggs and sperm are mixed outside of the body. The zygotes are then returned to the fallopian tubes. Another procedure to aid in reproduction is the "direct sperm injection" (ICSI). A large ultra fine needle injects a single sperm into an egg for fertilization.

When a husband is unable to produce adequate sperm for fertilization, sperm is taken from donors and inserted into the woman's body. Likewise, if the woman is unable to procure eggs, the eggs of another woman are harvested and used. A surrogate mother is used when the woman is unable to carry a child or chooses not to; the developing embryo is planted into the womb of the surrogate.

### Ethical Issues

*(For more on ethical concerns, see the article by Dr. Robert W. Weise on pages 8-9.)*

With new procedures come new ethical and moral issues. For example, using donor sperm/eggs and surrogacy mentioned above are problematic for the Christian in light of the one the flesh union of marriage (Gen-

esis 2:24). Ultimately, every couple needs to examine their selected procedure against God's Word. **"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him"** (James 1:5 NIV).

One of the dilemmas some couples face is what to do with the unused embryos. Traditionally they are frozen and kept until they are used or disposed of. If we believe that life begins at conception (Psalm 139:13-16), then we believe the life begun in the embryos should not be disposed of. It is for this reason Christian organizations such as Nightlight Christians Adoptions in Fullerton, California ([www.embryoadopton.org](http://www.embryoadopton.org)) invites couples to donate their unused embryos to their agency for adoption.

Though some procedures may present serious moral and ethical challenges, many of them are God-given ways to help put things back to the way things were before sin entered the world. Sin mixed things up. It turned things upside down. Things that were once normal and easy—to "be fruitful and increase in number"—became difficult or impossible. The created and creation were both gravely affected; **"For the creation was subjected to frustration ... We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time"** (Romans 8:20a, 22 NIV). Those involved in helping make babies possible for infertile couples are really nothing more than "facilitators" in helping make things right again as long as they do not use methods contrary to God's Word. Yes, "facilitators" only, because ultimately even the best specialist or doctor can't create life—only God produces life and hope.

**"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint"** (Isaiah 40:31 NIV).

## The Pain of Infertility



by Rev. Dr. Robert W. Weise

Many couples can relate to Rachel's pain, **"Give me children, or I'll die"** (Genesis 30:1). The desire to have a child for the infertile couple causes a very deep emotional and spiritual struggle. All Christians must be aware of this struggle and the need to listen to infertile couples. We are to **"Help carry each other's burdens"** (Galatians 6:2 *GOD'S WORD*<sup>®</sup>). Infertility affects 10 to 15 percent of married couples. Couples dream of having their "own" child. This desire for "self-fulfillment" is hard to understand unless you have been there. A variety of Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) offer many promises to have these dreams come true. However, we must also keep Jacob's question in mind, **"Can I take the place of God ...?"** (30:2b *GOD'S WORD*<sup>®</sup>). The use of some ART can go too far and leave God out of the picture. Along with the promises, there are perils associated with ART that couples need to be aware of as well.

### Promises

Since the birth of the first reported in vitro (test tube) baby, Louise Brown, born on July 25, 1978, "baby making" has seen rapid advancement. Procreation, the conception of a child in the natural way between husband and wife, has been aided by reproduction, the intervention of various technologies in

the procreative process. Since Louise Brown's birth, ART can make a baby in at least 29 ways. With the advent of cloning, reproduction may give way eventually to replication.

In addition, baby-making by ART can also promise more choices in terms of the various characteristics of the child conceived. Everything from hair and skin color to athletic or music abilities are not left to genetic "chance" but can be part of the selection process. Sex selection, choosing the gender of your child, is another possibility.

The promise of ART is the conception and birth of a healthy child-of-choice. Couples struggling with infertility are filled with awe at the wonder of what science can do to assist them in their desire to have their "own" child. There are many promises.

### Perils

But there are also many perils to be aware of particularly in the commonly used ART of in vitro fertilization (IVF). Embryonic children are created by the union of sperm and egg in a Petri dish. Many couples do not realize that these embryos are "graded" by the naked-eye under a microscope. A grading system is applied and those that don't "make the grade" are rejected and discarded. In addition, embryos not used are frozen and couples often face difficult decisions about keeping them frozen or having them destroyed by the clinic or using them for embryonic research.

IVF also allows for what is called "pre-implantation genetic diagnosis." This technology may be used to inform a couple about a child who will need special attention due to a genetic disease after he or she is born.





However, this technology tends to be used to cull and destroy “defective” embryos before implantation into the mother’s womb.

Another peril couples need to be aware of is related to parenting. When you freeze an embryonic human being, parenting remains frozen. You cannot parent a frozen embryo. Parents are called to raise their children in the instruction and discipline of the Lord. Freezing an embryonic child withdraws the parent’s responsibility toward baptizing and teaching. Children are blessings—gifts from God—and not commodities or projects for parents to do with as they please.

The sanctity of marriage must also be considered. The Lord established marriage as the context for the procreation of a child. Marriage is not to be compartmentalized into separate acts of marriage and procreation. Marriage and procreation are God’s work. They are not separate entities. Any form of ART that separates the relational aspect of marriage from procreation must be avoided. Using donor eggs or sperm or a surrogate mother, for example, would violate the God-given one-flesh union of marriage. The Bible story of Abraham who had a child through his wife’s handmaid, is an example of not trusting in the ways and will of God when it comes to procreation (Genesis 16:1-4).

### The Promises of God

Christians brought into the covenant relationship with the Triune God approach the use of ART and the manipulation of human embryos within the context of God’s Word. God’s Word, the Bible, speaks of the embryo as a human being. The embryo is a creature of God, created by the Father, redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. The embryo is a human being, the only creature created in the image of God. As Oliver O’Donovan says, “This implies a commitment in advance to treat all human beings as persons, even when their personal qualities have not yet become mani-

fest to us. The embryo is of interest to us because it is human; it is ‘ourselves’” (Begotten or Made?, Oxford University Press, 1984).

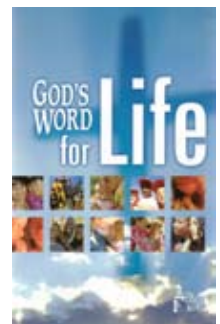
Thus, the embryonic human being, whether he or she is in a Petri dish or a womb, is the Christian’s neighbor. Because we are forgiven by God’s grace through faith, the relationship that God has with us and we with our neighbors in the womb or Petri dish, is based on this covenant of love. As we reflect that love, we do not hurt nor harm our neighbor, but help, support, and befriend them in every bodily need.

God does want us to “be fertile, increase in number” (Genesis 1:28). However, ART that involves the death of human embryos is not consistent with this command. We dare not use any means to achieve a desired end. God’s command is for procreation not for making a child by means that are not consistent with God’s procreative process. God is the one who does the making through this process.

God’s word does not specifically address ART. However, it does have plenty of positive things to say about marriage, procreation, and proper motivation for the decisions we make. When considering ART, the Christian should heed what the Bible says. The Christian is called to trust in God and His promises which find their “yes” in Jesus Christ. The infertile couple will find hope, patience, and strength in these promises.

*(Rev. Dr. Robert W. Weise is professor of practical theology and holds the Lutheran Charities Chair of Pastoral Ministry and Life Sciences at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.)*

This commentary is featured in the GOD’S WORD for Life study Bible available from Lutherans For Life. [www.lutheransforlife.org/gwfl.htm](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/gwfl.htm)



## Deadly Utility: Funding Embryo-Destructive Research

By Chuck Colson



Will sacrificing human embryos increase societal happiness? You might find that a strange question—and you'd be right.

In December, the National Institutes of Health approved 13 new lines of embryonic stem cells for use in federally funded experiments.

The approval put an end to an eight-year moratorium and is an example of how the manipulated and shortsighted desires of the powerful elite put the vulnerable most at risk.

Since August of 2001, researchers using federal money have been limited to 21 embryonic stem cell lines, stem cells derived from an original set of embryonic stem cells.

Even though these restrictions didn't prevent researchers from using other stem cell lines, the failure of American tax-

payers to pay for it was considered an intolerable restriction on science.

So in March, President Obama issued an executive order that ended the restrictions and told NIH to develop guidelines for the "ethical use" of embryonic stem cell lines.

Of course, if you are truly concerned about the "ethical use" of embryonic stem cells, your guidelines need only be three words long: "Don't use them." But, as is often the case in medical research, "ethical" is a synonym for "rationalization."

Thus, the director of NIH, Francis Collins—a Christian and friend of mine—said that even if "you believe in the inherent sanctity of the human embryo," there's "an argument to be made" that this research is

ethical.

I supported Collins nomination to be the head of NIH but, in this case, he is wrong. Embryonic stem cell research requires the destruction of what Collins acknowledges possesses "inherent sanctity." You can't honor this sanctity and, at the very same time, kill the embryo.

Funding this kind of research is unwise as well as being immoral. Unlike adult stem cells, which have been often used successfully, there is not a single case of a disease cured or a life saved by embryonic stem cell research.

Yet this is justified on utilitarian grounds—that is, maximize human happiness. But how is human happiness being maximized by

a process that doesn't work? And even non-Christians see the weaknesses in what is called utilitarianism.

Karl Marx, for example, criticized it for failing to take into account how people's ideas about happiness were unconsciously shaped by cultural and economic

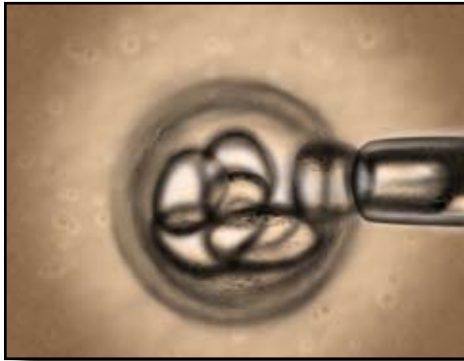
forces—what he called "ideology."

Daniel Dennett, in *Darwin's Dangerous Idea*, questions our ability to even know what increases the amount of happiness. Things that seem to decrease happiness now might, in the long run, actually increase happiness.

So when it comes to federal funding of embryonic stem cell research, the only people whose increased happiness we can be certain of are the medical researchers, who are getting what they want most—science for science's sake. Collins has promised them that these new stem cell lines are only the "first wave."

I pray he is wrong. Again.

*(From BreakPoint, December 9, 2009, reprinted with permission of Prison Fellowship, www.breakpoint.org.)*



## My Mind: I'm So Confused



by Rev. Mark Jeske

American society during the Truman presidency reinforced Christian values to a much greater extent than it does today. Heather didn't have two mommies in 1950. Marriage was to last until death us do part. You had to prove infidelity to get a divorce. Abortion was illegal and considered immoral. Living together without marriage was called "shacking up" and was not what nice people did. There was no such thing as a publicly gay legislator or pastor.

How do you figure out right and wrong today? Is there such a thing as immorality? Are there no absolutes? Is everybody's opinion just as valid as anybody else's? Is Christianity merely one of many interesting and equally valid religious philosophies? I don't blame you if you feel that our culture is built on quicksand. **"When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?"** (Psalm 11:3 NIV).

Here is one source of information and authority that is never obsolete. In a world of confusion, contradiction, corruption, and change, there is a source of steady light to get you safely home. **"Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path"** (Ps 119:105). Read. Then you'll know.

*(From Grace Moments, 1/14/10. Used by permission. [www.timeofgrace.org](http://www.timeofgrace.org).)*



## ADOPTION OPTION LFL RESOURCES:

### BOOKLETS

**Adoption: Finding a Family for a Child** explores adoption opportunities.

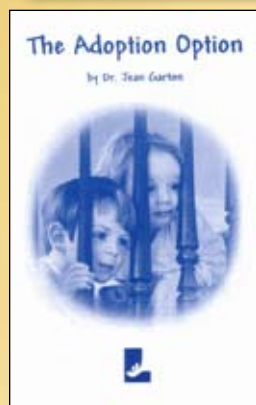
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**\$0.25 ea.**

**The Adoption Option** by Dr. Jean Garton.

Item 500B.

**\$1.00 ea.**



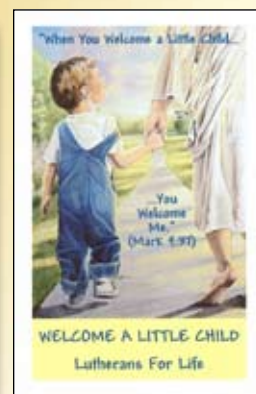
### BROCHURE

**The**

**Servanthood of Adoption**

— There is a need to shed some good light on adoption by looking at adoption in the light of biblical servanthood.

Item 501T. **\$0.25 ea.**



### BULLETIN INSERT

**Welcome a Little Child.**

Item 500B1. **\$0.07 ea.**

## No More NFW

by Linda D. Bartlett  
[www.titus2-4life.org](http://www.titus2-4life.org)



The cornerstone of National Foolishness of Women (NFW) was placed by the first woman, Eve, when she failed to trust God and attempted to define her own truth. Throughout history, the daughters of Eve became quite skilled in the practice of foolishness. Modern women may believe themselves “enlightened,” but they are, much too often, simply foolish.

Foolish women are dangerous. They put themselves and others at risk. In time, their foolishness can weaken families, communities, even nations.

Foolishness does not mean lacking intelligence or having a low IQ. In fact, some women (or men) who are brilliant may, in God’s eyes, be foolish. For example, **“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God’”** (Psalm 14:1; 53:1). In Proverbs, the

fool is one who doesn’t have a proper fear of the Lord. “Fear” is not what you may think. “Fear” of the Lord is more than surprise or terror. Proverbs teaches us that the woman (or man) who fears the Lord clings to Him. To fear God is to trust Him. **“The fear of the Lord,”** says Proverbs 1:7, **“is the beginning of knowledge [but] fools despise wisdom and instruction.”**

Eve did not cling to or trust God’s Word. She did not fear the Lord but, as if trying to be more spiritual than her Creator, actually spoke for Him. In her dialogue with Satan, she added words to God’s instructions for life (compare Genesis 3:2-3 to 2:16-17). Denial

and doubt of Truth caused Eve to become foolish.

Are the daughters of Eve doomed to foolishness? No! Eve (Hebrew: *chawwah*) means “life.” There is hope expressed in this name because, as the bearer of children, Eve would eventually bear the promised Seed of Wisdom and Salvation: Jesus Christ.

Wisdom in Christ is the opposite of foolishness. The remedy for foolishness is for God’s Word to remain the daily companion for modern woman. When God’s Word is trusted and used by older women, they can train younger women.

My mother and grandmothers did not lay the Bible aside when training me. It



wasn’t so much that they read daily to me from God’s Word, but more like they lived in daily trust of God’s Word. I watched them make choices that showed fear of the Lord. Even after poor choices were made, I heard them confess foolishness and ask for wisdom. Was I willingly trained? Nope! Did I resist old-fashioned ways? Yep, as surely as I breathe air. After all, wasn’t I more enlightened about life than the

older women in my family? Hadn’t my ideas evolved light-years beyond theirs?

Ahh, but time and experience have a way of changing our perspective and adjusting our attitude. Being reminded by “older” women to return again and again to God’s Word of wisdom helps us leave foolishness behind. According to God’s order of things, the “older” woman of Titus 2 both instructs and warns “younger” women.

But, what happens when generations of older women do not train younger women in Truth? What happens when older women do not fear God or cling to Him, but instead let themselves be swayed by their own feelings

or worldly ideas?

About the time I was in high school, mothers were encouraged to supplement God's Word with trendy ideas and social experimentation. Girls were raised to be more like boys. A feminine daughter too often became a mild social embarrassment, but an aggressive tomboy daughter was a source of pride. A quest for a masculinized body set girls on a path toward a more masculinized emotional life, but completely ignored the innate differences between male and female or their reasons for having sex. Purity was no longer seen as a virtue and modesty nearly disappeared. Anything naturally womanly, especially anything related to childbearing, had to be managed, minimized, and worked around a career outside the home. In some cases, social experimentation with girls was wrapped in a spiritual aura. Gloria Steinem believed, for example, that a major source of girls' troubles is their alienation from ancient goddess-centered religions. (Excerpts from Barbara Dafoe Whitehead in "The Girls of Gen X," *The American Enterprise*, Jan/Feb 1998) The time was ripe for abortion which allowed women to compete on the same playing field as men. Some women called abortion a "sacrifice," but it was made on the altar of "self."

What has been the result of this social experiment? Since 1977, the "happiness index" has been trending downward for young women. The happiness of high school senior girls between 1976 and 1995 fell significantly. In the '90s, young women expressed the most frustration with their own bodies and men. (Whitehead) A modern generation of women is freer, but not necessarily more content.

That's how it is with foolishness. Foolishness is what happens when we fail to cling to God's Word and use it for **"teaching ... for correction, and for training in righteousness"** (2 Timothy 3:16). We become foolish when we are untrained.

So, what can we do? We can help young

women discover that their value is not in what they do, how they look, or who they're with, but in Whose they are. We can train them to trust the Father God rather than follow their fickle heart. Wise cultures became healthier and happier cultures whenever they trained young men to practice control of their male nature. Training a young man to control his sexual desire and aggressive tendencies benefits all. Men who didn't learn how to control themselves were neither personally content nor helpful to others. Wise parents and societies also knew the importance of helping girls control their natural desire to be ruled by emotions. Girls who let emotions guide their behavior were neither personally content nor helpful to others. We need to expose the foolishness of modern feminism that demands boys control their nature but cries "sexism" when girls are taught the same.

Wisdom in Christ is the opposite of foolishness. For this reason, the mentoring ministry of Titus 2 for Life exists to oppose the NFW. Titus 2 for Life is not popular, cool, nor worldly enlightened. It is, rather, rebellious. NFW has been examined and found wanting. It fails to nurture happiness and contentment. It is empty of hope.

Christ is "the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:24). He is the Word (John 1:1). In Him **"are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge"** (Colossians 2:3). In Christ, we are no longer held captive to foolish living but are "wise to salvation." With such wisdom we can practice self-control. Be eager to do what is good. Grow in contentment. And excitedly anticipate the appearance of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Two years after a Titus 2 Retreat, a 40-something woman wrote, "Thank you! Thank you for helping me realize that I can leave my foolishness behind and look forward to a changed and hope-filled life."

(Interested in hosting or attending a Titus 2 Retreat? E-mail [lindabartlett@mchsi.com](mailto:lindabartlett@mchsi.com).)

## Really Good News



by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

On Sanctity of Human Life Sunday we need to speak of one of those unspeakable sins, the sin of abortion. Yes, abortion is political and controversial. But at its core, it is a sin. That's why we are compelled to speak about it. We speak about it so that we can make it very clear that it is a sin. Abortion destroys, in very brutal ways 3,500 times a day, a tiny human life. Abortion destroys a life gifted and created by God. Abortion destroys a life for whom Jesus was born and died. A Christian cannot defend abortion as a choice or a right. To do so supports those who Isaiah says, **"are swift to shed innocent blood"** (59:7a).

We speak about abortion today because of the great pain and regret suffered by those involved in this decision. Since seventy-five percent of those having an abortion are Christian, there could very well be someone reading this who has been affected by an abortion decision. You may very well feel like the people Isaiah was talking to when they realized the gravity of their sin. **"We hope for light, and behold, darkness, and for brightness, but we walk in gloom"** (59:9b). If that describes you, if that describes any of you because of sin in your life, God has *really* good news for you today!

God's Good News is *really* good because it restores sinners so completely. Those *really* bad people will be **"a crown of beauty ... a royal diadem in the hand of your God"** (Isaiah 62:3). We're not just talking about something beautiful here but something *really* beautiful, something royally beautiful and, therefore, precious to God.

Those *really* bad people will be given new names. Instead of "Forsaken," they will be "My Delight." Instead of "Desolate," they

will be "Married" (v 4). What incredible restoration! This is not, "You'll be restored and you'll be okay to God." This is not, "You'll be restored and God will be your friend." This is, "as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you" (v 5b).

If you have had an abortion or pressured someone into an abortion, I'd like to talk with you right now. You other sinners can listen in because we all need to hear this, but we don't talk about abortion much in church and so those struggling with this sin don't always hear the Good News applied to them. But I hope you are hearing it today! Take what you are hearing personally. God's restoration of the sinner is a complete restoration. God's restoration of you is complete. You are precious to God, like a royal diadem. You may feel forsaken, but you are God's delight. It may seem like you are desolate and alone, but you are married, joined to God by His great love for you. Indeed, He rejoices over you as a bridegroom over His beautiful bride.

This *really* good news of restoration for *really* bad people comes as God's gift through His Son Jesus Christ. God restores us as "royal diadems" by emptying Himself of His divine royalty and taking the form of a servant. Jesus was conceived and born to take on human flesh. God restores us as "crowns of beauty" by impaling His Son with a crown of thorns and nailing Him to a cross. The blood that flowed from that cross cleanses the blood on our hands because of sin and our toleration of sin. Jesus the King became a pauper so we could be seen as royalty in God's eyes..

With such good news, how can we be silent?

*(Excerpted and adapted from Dr. Lamb's Life Sunday sermon, "Really Good News," based on Isaiah 62:1-5. The entire sermon, and other resources are available for download at the LFL web site.)*



## Speak the Truth of Life in Love (Part 2)



by Kay L. Meyer

God recently gave me an opportunity to speak the truth about life when I received an e-mail from a man who wanted his 90-year-old mother's name taken off the LFL mailing list. He wrote, "My mother and I don't believe in what your organization believes in." Several statements he made in the letter were inaccurate, so I decided to give him a call.

He told me, "My father was a pastor, but a liberal one. My mother attends an LCMS congregation because it is the only one in her retirement community, but she doesn't believe what you believe about life issues." He continued, "I believe that abortion should be legal and that we should make sure fewer women get pregnant out of wedlock."

How would I witness for Life and be an influence on this man's life?

After a quick prayer, I explained that abortion is a sin and that it is a baby in the womb. Many people, including this man, believe it is just a mass of tissue. We were both civil, but I said I couldn't just "agree to disagree" because that doesn't address the real issues that divide us. (To say the least, it was an interesting conversation.)

I believe it is also important to "keep it simple" and stick to one topic—give a spoonful of information each time you talk. **We must point them to the truth: Jesus Christ.** (And listen—even when we disagree it can be done in love!)

Let's share the truth in love for life by being salt and light for the Lord in today's world.

## The Annunciation of our Lord Thursday, March 25, 2010



## The Ascension of our Lord Thursday, May 13, 2010



Find resources to observe these days with the  
For Life message at [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org).



## 42 Reasons



By Rev. Mark Milatz

Job 12:10 served as the basis for my Life Sunday sermon in January of 2008. There were many reasons I was looking forward to preaching on this text for this particular occasion this year. Little did I know there would be a young lady worshiping in our congregation that weekend with her own reasons for being there—42 reasons to be exact!

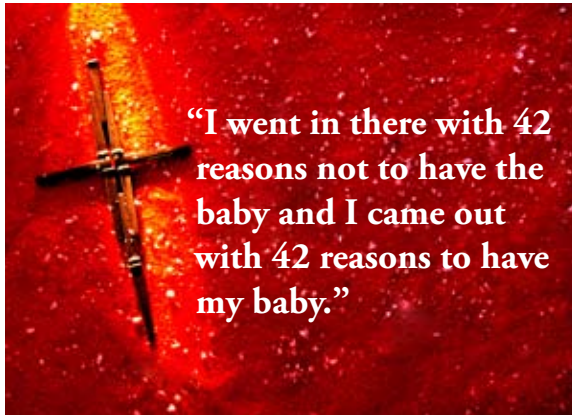
Before I go on, I must admit I don't even know the young lady that I am sharing about in these words. I don't know if she came to worship that particular Life Sunday because she was struggling with an unplanned pregnancy, or if it was a mere coincidence that she arrived in our sanctuary. All I know is what her friend has shared with a member of our local Lutherans for Life Chapter (*Heart to Heart Ministries*) in Livingston County, Michigan. She came to church that day with 42 reasons not to have the baby, (she told her friend) and why she should end the life of her baby. I don't know what all 42 reasons were. But I know they must've been similar to the reasons so many other unborn children never see the light of day.

When we only see what is right in front of us life can seem so scary and overwhelming. Decisions that will be regretted long after the storm passes are so easily made. If anyone in the Bible understood that temptation it was Job. His life is well chronicled as one of great hardship and pain. How easy it would've been for him to take matters into his own hands! Yet, he remembered, **“In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.”** Those words were working

on the heart of a young lady with a difficult decision as they flowed from my mouth.

Our worship center has two large projectors that can hold text and show pictures. I used the screens on this particular weekend to share a picture of the small hands of a tiny baby developing in its mother's womb. I showed pictures of the different kind of work our hands can produce. Hands can be powerful images! Yet, no picture

was more striking than the picture I shared of the nail pierced hands of Jesus, dying a terrible death on Calvary's cross, amazingly to give us new life. In Jesus' hands is the new life of every creature and the eternal breath of all mankind! God loves life so much that He died to give it to us! And with that truth, 42 reasons to end a child's life turned into 42 reasons to continue with the pregnancy for that young lady. As she told her friend: “I went in there with 42 reasons not to have





the baby and I came out with 42 reasons to have my baby.”

I had the opportunity to show one final picture in my LIFE sermon. It was the ultrasound picture taken earlier that week of the baby growing inside of my wife—our third child. It was a special way to share the news of her pregnancy with our congregation. The congregation clapped. Some cried. This emotional moment was followed by a passionate plea from our Lutherans For Life—Life Ministry Coordinator, Kathy Jones. She urged everyone to participate in the baby-bottle boomerang collection for the local pregnancy clinic here in Brighton. A clinic that uses ultrasound images like the one just displayed, to convince 24 abortion-minded women (in 2007) to keep their babies alive. We have a God who holds the whole world in His hands, and yet, who gives us the privilege about caring for little ones with the work of our own hands along the way.

I'm thankful that God used this particular service to flip the script on those 42 reasons. Even more, I'm hopeful that the power of God's Word and its ability to change lives will motivate all Christians to continue the fight for life. We have nearly 50 million reasons. That's roughly the number of babies aborted in this country since 1973. One saved baby seems so small in light of 50 million lost children. But that's a baby who will know the love of his or her mother's hands. It's a baby who will learn there is a God who holds them in His Hands. May each victory lead Christian hands to fold in prayers of thanksgiving and unite with the hands of other believers to reach out to a dying world and bring it the Good News of Life!

*(Rev. Milatz is pastor of Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church, Brighton, Michigan)*

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

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Contact Kay Meyer at 515-441-6571 or [kmeyer@lutheransforlife.org](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

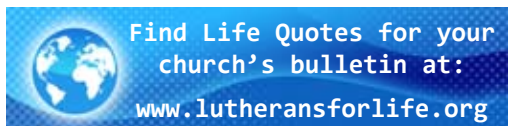
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Send to LFL (see address on page 2).



**Many thousands of young people marched through Paris on January 17 to uphold the right to life.** The organizers estimate there were 20,000 marchers. The march was supported by 26 Catholic French bishops. Anthony Ozimic, who represented SPUC on the march, commented: “Such an event is an impressive achievement considering the strong anti-life trend in France. The youthful vigor on display makes one hopeful for the future.” (*John Smeaton 1/18; SPUC, 1/20*)

**Stillbirth Foundation Australia is urgently calling for more research into stillbirth, after it emerged that 2,000 babies a year are stillborn in Australia.** Reports say that IVF and ovarian stimulation are thought to increase the chance of stillbirth. (*The Daily Telegraph Australia, SPUC, 2/1*)

**Human Rights Watch, a pro-abortion group, has issued a report attacking Ireland’s pro-life law and calling for legalized abortion in the republic.** The group has accused the Irish government of being erratic and divisive in its response to the “need for abortion.” The group also suggested that Ireland’s constitutional protection for the unborn fails to meet Ireland’s obligations under international law. Patrick Buckley, SPUC’s consultant on the UN, said “[t]his report is dishonest in that its authors know full well that there is no such thing as a right to abortion under international law. The report is therefore more about trying to create such a right by exerting pressure on the Irish Government to permit the slaughter of the youngest and most vulnerable members of the human family in Ireland.” (*Irish Examiner, Patrick Buckley, 1/28; SPUC, 1/29*)



**A new morning-after pill, which manufacturers claim can be taken five days after sex, is available on prescription.** Professor Anna Glaiser, of NHS Lothian in Edinburgh, Scotland, was responsible for research comparing the new drug with the current morning-after pill. Her research tested the two drugs on 2,221 women and was published in the *Lancet*, the medical journal. Professor Glaiser said that she does not expect the new drug, Ellaone, to reduce either unwanted pregnancy or abortion rates. Family Education Trust said that it expected

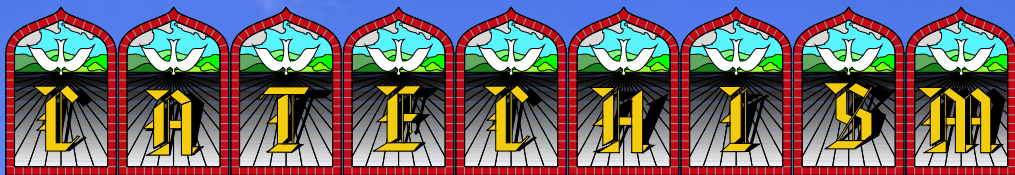
the drug to lead to an increase in promiscuity and sexually transmitted diseases and ProLife Alliance described the new drug as an “abortion pill.” (*The Times, The Telegraph, SPUC, 1/29*)

**The Anglican Archbishop of York, England, has criticized what he describes as a celebrity-driven campaign for legalized assisted suicide.** Dr. John Sentamu said he was more interested in hearing what disabled people thought about assisted suicide. Dr. Sentamu warned that legalizing assisted suicide would soon lead to an acceptance of so-called mercy killings. The Archbishop also questioned the reliability of a UK poll of one thousand people, which suggested that three-quarters of British people are in favor of a change in the law regarding assisted suicide. (*Daily Mail, SPUC, 2/2*)

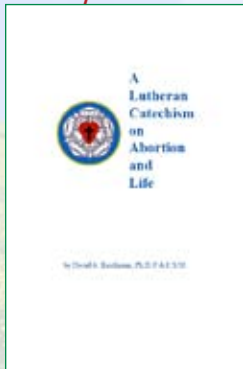
**The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has revoked the charitable status of Kings Glory Fellowship (KGF), a Christian church in Calgary.** CRA cites a number of issues with KGF’s application, but the decision is based, in part, on the ground that certain KGF Board members have spoken out strongly against abortion, and other moral issues. “The main point is that they don’t like my opinions about different controversial issues, and I speak about them openly on radio, in paper, and on TV,” said KGF’s pastor, Artur Pawloski. “So that’s what happens when you express your views as a pastor ... If they take the charity status away from a church, they are hoping that they are going to starve us to death in Canada, and therefore we will not be able to influence anyone ... That’s basically what happens. That’s what they want to accomplish. They want to muzzle us up.” (*LifeSiteNews.com, 1/21*)

**A top health minister in Russia suggests the nation should consider cutting abortions to combat its problems of underpopulation.** Health Minister Tatyana Golikova said there were 1.714 million births in Russia in 2008 but 1.234 million abortions as the country continued having one of the highest abortion rates in the world along with other eastern European nations. (*LifeNews.com, 1/18*)

*Unless otherwise noted, World News summaries are from the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) based in London, England: [www.spuc.org.uk](http://www.spuc.org.uk).*

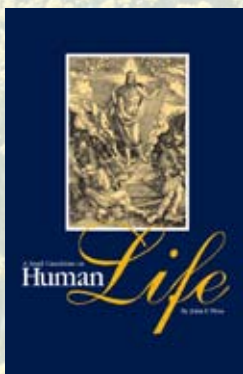


**Book/Booklets**



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**Speak Up For Life**  
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encourage God’s people to do! It is tragically true that too often the Church, as a whole, has failed to speak up For Life or has done so weakly. It is also especially disappointing since God Himself has never been silent when it comes to life. This booklet takes a look at life issues based on *Luther’s Small Catechism*—and is sized to insert right into the catechism itself! Does the catechism have anything to say about life? Yes! *Item 212B. \$0.35 ea.*



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# Share Good News For Life on Mother's Day!



"As a mother comforts  
her child, so will I  
comfort you."

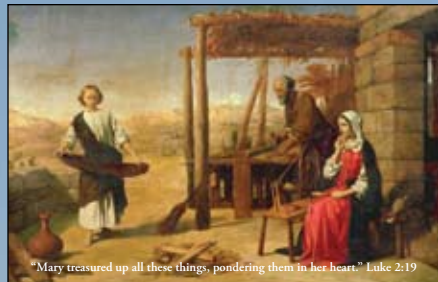
Isaiah 66:13a

**A Mother's Comfort** bulletin insert says, "It is good to honor mothers and the vocation of motherhood as God does. We thank God for our mothers, and we thank our mothers for being God's "knitting room" and giving us life (Psalm 139:13)." A Mother's Day prayer is included. To read the complete bulletin insert text and to order go to:

[www.lutheransforlife.org/mothers\\_comfort.htm](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/mothers_comfort.htm)

Item 1110BI. \$0.07 ea.

*Also Available ...*



"Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart." Luke 2:19

**The Heart of a Mother** bulletin insert.  
Item 1108BI. \$0.07 ea.

"When you help moms you've gone a long way in promoting the sanctity of human life ... Join us in praying for moms so that more moms ... will know of the presence of God in Christ no matter what their circumstances."

*Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb*

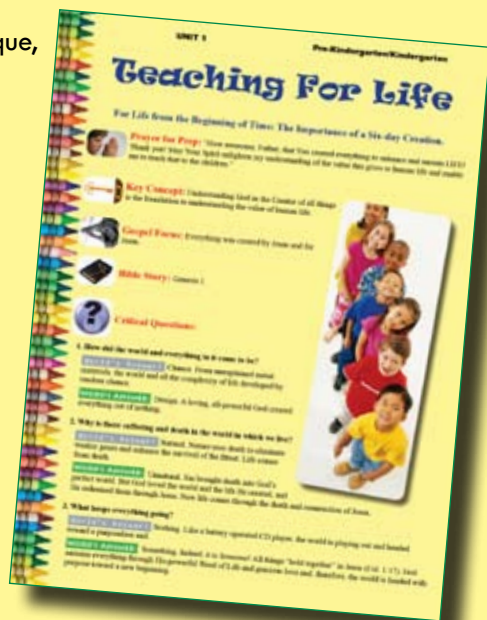
# Teaching For Life®

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[www.lutheransforlife.org/  
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## The Hidden Life

by Rev. John Henderson



One Sunday morning, I got out of bed to get ready to go to church. About 30 seconds after I turned on the shower, the water stopped. I quickly got dressed and went out to check with the neighbors. The whole of our street had lost its water supply.

It was only a local problem, and soon fixed, but to me, it was a powerful reminder of how much we take for granted things that are essential to life. While it seems many of us live as though we are invincible, the reality is that we are as fragile as our next sip of water, or our next breath. Our life is made possible by an intricate web of connections and circumstances.

Not just the water in our pipes, but the morning air we breathe, the sun that shines, the blood that pumps around our veins, and the thoughts that flow through our heads. As I sat and thought about what I would say, I wrote down words to contain my thoughts. The transition between the thoughts in my brain, and my fingers that put the words into print via a computer, was only one of thousands of intricate processes that I undertook on that particular Sunday. Most of them passed by without notice—things like standing and walking, driving, talking, breathing, eating. Once we have learned how to do things, our brains and our bodies just do them.



But what happens when it stops? What about when our brain thinks, but our body doesn't act the way we expect.

One Friday, after I had been out of town for over a week, I went to visit my father. He has had Parkinson's disease for many years, and currently lives in a facility where he receives a high level of professional care. When I arrived, he was fast asleep. I tried, but I could not rouse him. He could obviously hear me, and there were signs that he knew I was there. This kind of thing has become common. When I visited again the next day, he told me that he had heard my voice and tried to respond, but he could not find his way to the surface. He literally could not wake up,

even though he wanted to. His body would not obey the conscious commands of his brain.

Parkinson's disease is complex and we don't really understand it. No one really knows why it

happens, but it seems to be something chemical in the brain. Things that used to connect the brain to the body stop working. The difficulty even the best doctors have in understanding Parkinson's disease shows us the incredible complexity of our brains, and the slender links between our conscious thought, our involuntary impulses, and our physical body. It is extremely difficult for the patient, and it is hard for the family. Everyone's journey with the disease is different, but all result in the loss of bodily faculty and the impairment of normal social and personal interactions.

Medical conditions like Parkinson's are common, and perhaps are becoming more

so the longer we tend to live. This kind of thing is becoming quite normal. It is forcing us to redefine the kind of care we need in our society and the type of institutions we need to provide for that need, now that the family unit is often not strong enough to cope.

What makes us human? While most people enjoy health and vitality in their youth, that isn't enough to see us through the tougher times. Because we live in a youth culture, we might think that a "can do" attitude is all we really need. As we go on in life, however, it's not so much the strength and vitality of youth and health that matters, but the wisdom and balance of our evolving relationships with others and the world around us. We move on from the early strength of the body to a more mature strength in our minds and in our souls. This strength, which we can call character, is our legacy to the people with whom we share our lives. It's how people know us and remember us even when our personal strength is leaving us, because we have used our abilities to contribute to the health and welfare of others.

In the case of my father, who was once at the top of his career in music and a self-made man recognized for his ability and his compassion, it has been his Christian faith that has made all the difference. Through every affliction he has endured, that faith has been his constant companion. It is something he is passionate about, although you will rarely ever hear him say it. More importantly, however, it is not something he has done for himself, but something that another has done for him.

This faith is not an act of the will, or of the conscious mind. Christians call it a gift—a gift from God more precious than any other thing that God could have given us. It transforms our lives from a cycle of work and reward which fails when our ability fails, to a stream of life and love which carries us through life and beyond. Faith is taking part in the life of God, a life that does not depend

on our strength or even our consciousness. It flows in, around, and through us even when we are asleep, or deeply afflicted with a disease like Parkinson's.

In Psalm 16 we hear: **"I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure."**

The only ability that the Psalmist has to keep the Lord before him is the fact that the Lord is beside him. That's how it is between God and us. We are not forced, and we are not coerced. We are befriended, and we are loved. Out of that love flows all the strength we need for our hearts and our bodies. In that love what happens to us is not the final word, because our life and our being cannot really ever be taken away.

My dad, like many others, and eventually like all of us, may have lost many of the obvious abilities that made him successful and strong throughout his life. He can no longer hold on to those things, but Jesus holds on to him.

The missionary Paul once wrote to people living in Colossae: **"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory"** (Colossians 3:1-4).

*(Pastor Henderson is Principal of Australian Lutheran College. "The Hidden Life" was broadcast on Face to Face, 11/15/2009, a weekly radio program offering words of gospel-centred hope to help people cope with life. Each week's message is available for download on Lutheran Media's web site at [www.facetoface.org.au](http://www.facetoface.org.au).)*



## Renewal For Life® in 2010

by Jerilyn Richard,  
RFL Coordinator



In 2010, there is a sense of renewal and rejuvenation in the Christian community in this nation. We have realized we have to take the opportunity to be a voice and to be heard when it comes to the issues of life. LFL's theme this year is **Speak the Truth of Life**. Lutherans For Life is equipped and ready to do just that.

The question we hear frequently is, "What can I do?" You can start with the three R's of Renewal For Life®. What are the three R's? **Renewing Responsibility, Relevance, and Resources** within the church. RFL is the new initiative through LFL whose mission is to, "Impact Lutheran congregations to be Christ-centered, enthusiastic, and ongoing Voices For Life." With help from our For Life online library, sharing the For Life message is now easier than before. It contains

worship and sermon helps, audio and video files, ideas on incorporating the For Life message into the ongoing ministry of the congregation, and much more. We have pulled together Lutheran life-related materials into one place and organized them for ease of use. The RFL site isn't perfect yet, but we are working hard on it with expert help to have the best For Life resource on the web!

The most effective way to share the For Life message in your congregation is through your pastor and LFL grassroots. RFL wants to encourage and help pastors and congregations see that addressing the life issues is their responsibility and we are here to help them. Reaching pastors one-on-one can be a challenge, which is why we are using a top-down approach. The easiest way to do that is in a group setting. Pastors' conferences, circuit meetings, and other gatherings for pastors is how we hope to reach pastors with this message.

This past January, the South Dakota District of the LCMS invited LFL to present the Renewal For Life® message to ALL the circuits in their state during a one week period. This is a great way to reach our pastors with this vital message. Another invitation we had was to present to the AFLC pastors' conference, which allowed the For Life message to be shared with a large group of pastors in one setting. So far, 310 pastors have heard the RFL message!

There are many other ways to **Speak the Truth of Life** through Renewal For Life®. If you would like more information on what you can do, please contact me or Kim Nessa at the Life Center, and together we will find how YOU can speak the truth of life! (888-364-LIFE)



Check out our  
LifeTube® page at:  
[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)



## LFL at the March for Life



A record 160-plus Lutherans from 10 states gathered in Washington, DC, January 22, for the 37<sup>th</sup> annual March for Life.

"This has been the largest participation we've had in the 14 years we've been doing this," said Dennis Di Mauro, leader of the Lutherans For Life chapter in northern Virginia, and an organizer for Lutherans in the march. "God has blessed this ministry."

Ann Richardson of Avon, Indiana, accompanied by her 18-year-old son, Robert, said the need to show her support for life issues prompted her to make the trip and take part in her first March for Life. Richardson said she has been eager to help others understand the sanctity of human life, especially pre-natal life, "ever since I learned the truth about what happens in the nine months before birth," she said. "Every single life is valuable."

Di Mauro said, "It's not the March for Life that's important, but the energy that we get to go out and do pro-life stuff."

([www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org), 1/27/10; photo courtesy of Rev. Christopher Esget.)

## Combined Federal Campaign

Lutherans For Life has received approval to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), the annual fundraising program through which federal employees and military personnel can donate funds to the ministry by payroll deduction.



LFL's name will appear in the listing of "National/International Organizations," published in each local campaign brochure.

If you are a federal employee or member of the US military (or have family or friends who are) and would like to support LFL's mission to "witness to the sanctity of human life, through education, based on the Word of God," please consider designating "Lutherans For Life" when making your pledge—and let others know about this unique opportunity!

**The CFC identification number for LFL is 11508.**

Participation in the Combined Federal Campaign is just one of the many opportunities you have to help support Lutherans For Life. There are many other ways to support LFL through direct and planned gifts as an expression of worship and gratitude for God's blessings. Contact Kay Meyer, Director of Development for Lutherans For Life, to find out more: [kmeyer@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:kmeyer@lutheransforlife.org); 515-441-6571.

## Lutherans For Life – Latvia

By Rev. Don Richman, LFL  
International Representative



With support and encouragement of Lutherans For Life (USA), the first Ecumenical conference on the sanctity of human life was held at St. Matthew Baptist Church in Riga, Latvia on October 31, 2003. Pastor Martins and his wife, Gunta Irbes, were the main architects and organizers of this conference. Archbishop Janis Vanags was the opening speaker. He gave a clear biblical message reminding us of the importance of the sanctity of human life and calling us to stand against abortion—which has brought so much devastation and pain. And he urged us to uphold life—from the time of its conception every baby should be safe and protected.

Since that time, thanks to the tireless work of Pastor Martins and Gunta Irbes, and a team of faithful co-workers, conferences have been organized every year. The message has always been to uphold the biblical teaching with regard to the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. They have resoundingly defended and promoted the ideals of Christian marriage and the biblical teaching on sexuality within marriage.



the Latvian Lutheran Church, in September 2009, officially incorporated the ministry of Lutherans For Life into the structure of the department of Diakonia (which handles charity, food, clothing, and human care activities).

The message of Lutherans for Life has been consistent over the years. The first priority has been to uphold the biblical message. We are created in the image and likeness of God. As so aptly stated in Psalm 139:13-14: **“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. Wonderful are your works; my soul**

**knows it very well.”**

From the moment of conception we are precious human persons in the eyes of God and should therefore be honored, loved, and protected.

Lutherans For Life has also presented the medical and genetic principles that uphold life. Even most secular medical books teach that life begins at conception with all the genetic information being present from that time. Beginning with the early Church, leaders of the Church, including Martin Luther, have always held that life in the womb is to be honored, loved, and protected.

I am sure most of you agree with the historic teaching of the Church on the sanctity of human life. Yet, there seems to be, on the part of many, a “conspiracy of silence.” It would appear that many—pastors and lay people—hide behind a veil of silence. Why?

### Great News!

We are thankful to be able to report that

Could it be that even though some people agree intellectually with the biblical teaching on the sanctity of human life they, at the same time, secretly harbor the idea that if an “unwanted” pregnancy should occur, we can’t imagine having to rearrange our lives to accommodate a baby? Therefore, we would want the possibility of abortion to be available.

Or, could it be that people reason, “I have no right or authority to speak out about abortion because I had an abortion”?

Please don’t think that way.

If you have influenced someone to have an abortion or have had one yourself, if you repent, confess this as sin, and bring it to the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, that sin is forgiven. Believe that **“the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin”** (1 John 1:7). God says, **“I will remember their sins no more”** (Hebrews 8:12). Forgiven and cleansed from sin, you have both the authority and responsibility to speak against the sin of abortion just as the Apostle Paul, a forgiven murderer, spoke against murder (as well as other sins).

Other people hide behind silence because, they might reason, “abortion is wrong for me but I can’t dictate how other people should handle their circumstances.” This is wrong. The commandment “you shall not murder” is not some private morality. It is God’s universal law. We have no right to limit that to ourselves, but must apply it to others as God applies it to us.

The consequences of tolerating abortion or euthanasia are serious. The same reasoning used to justify killing babies in the womb will be used—and is used—to justify killing those with special needs, the elderly, and sick. The same reasoning used to kill the elderly or sick will be used—and is used—to justify deporting or killing political or ideological opponents until finally the Satanic lust for blood will drive to unrestrained, mass murder.

Under the teaching of the Sanctity of Life

we know that human life from conception to natural death is precious before God and us. This teaching, however, comes with a price. We must be willing to make the sacrifice and rearrange our lives to welcome that unanticipated beautiful new baby. We must pay the price in time, energy, and often money, to care for that sick, elderly person. We must pay the price in time and energy to care for that child with Down syndrome. We must pay the price of work, money, and effort, to teach, proclaim, and enact laws that defend life. But, dearly beloved, with the price paid there come great rewards.

Jesus, the Son of the Living God paid the price on the cross for our eternal salvation. We can trust what He did and know that because He paid the ultimate price, our sin is forgiven. Because of what He did we can have assurance of eternal life. **“In him we have redemption through his blood”** (Ephesians 1:7). Notice it does not say “maybe have.” It says “we have” (present tense). Because we can trust Him, we can surrender our lives and uncertainties to Him. Because we can trust Him who died for us, we can trust Him to care for us and to uphold us if and when we have to face the decisions that sometimes come with living out the sanctity of life. It is also incumbent upon the Church to stand beside and help those who are going through these difficulties.

Stand beside and help that single mother.

Stand beside and help those with special needs.

Stand beside and help those caring for an Alzheimer’s patient.

And, beloved Church, for which our Savior died, please faithfully teach the full council of God, so much of which is anchored in the doctrine of the sanctity of human life.

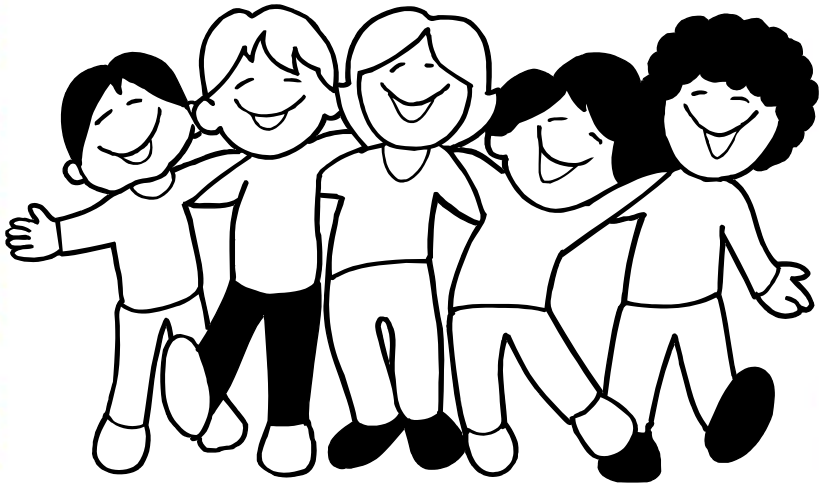
May God anoint and bless with new vision, energy, and sacrificial commitment, the growing team of Latvian Lutherans For Life.

**You are the handiwork of God.  
In the Bible we read,**

“You alone created my inner being. You knitted me together inside my mother ... Your eyes saw me when I was only a fetus. Every day of my life was recorded in your book before one of them had taken place.”

*Psalm 139:13, 16 GOD’S WORD*

**Color in the kids and words below.**



**GOD LOVES  
KIDS!**

**Check out great resources for kids in our  
Life Resource Catalog!**

**T**hank you for your ongoing and often sacrificial support of Lutherans For Life during 2009! Your prayers, volunteer efforts, and financial support allow Lutherans For Life to continue to **Bring the Good News For Life** to children, youth, and adults. You are examples of Christ's love in action. Your partnership with Lutherans For Life is needed today more than ever before.

In His Service and yours,  
*Kay L. Meyer*  
 Director of Development

### Lutherans For Life thanks all those who have given 2009 Donations in Loving Memory of:

**Rev. Arthur Aadland** by Lowell Highby; **Marjorie Abel** by Mr. & Mrs. Carl Abel; **The Allen baby** by Margaret Mesmer; **Marv & Eva Landgraf**; **Mary Jean Ainsworth** by Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Ainsworth; **Chad Martin Anderson** by Christine Anderson; **Olga Anderson** by Ardella Schmidt; **Louis E. Appell** by Betty Appell; **Elmer Arndt** by Don & Joan DeGeest; **Their loved ones** by Mr. & Mrs. William L. Baessler; **Elmer Barkon** by Ed & Esther Oehme; **All aborted babies** by Rhonda Gordon, Charlotte Weber, David Heimdahl, Marcia Dicks, Robin Fleischer, Carla Horton, Johanna Forrest, John & Judy Heintze, Ms. Marie Exner, Shirley Schultz; **Rose & Laszlo Ban** by E. Ban; **Harvey & Irma Bartelt** by Nancy Krueger; **Lorraine Bartelt** by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Homan; **Robert Baseley** by Marjorie Baseley; **Harold Bauers** by Mrs. Harold Bauers; **Matthew & Violet Becker** by Rev. Robert & Ruth Becker; **Rosemary Behr** by Rev. & Cathy Hoesch; **Ralph Behrens** by Lola Behrens; **Donald Beile Sr.** by Carol Beile; **Harvey Beneke** by Marlene Beneke; **Helen Beneker** by Rev. & Mrs. Carl Richardson; **Elaine Benz** by Ron & Carol Jochimsen; **Ginnys Father** by Meredith Berg; **Gerald Berg** by Leila Smith; **Rev. John A Beyer** by Carol Deitrick; **Kenneth Bienz** by Janine Albert; **Betty Bierman** by Rev. & Mrs. Don Meyer; **Clara Ruth Bitz** by Kenneth & Signe Carlson; **Thomas Blackwell** by Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wendorf; **Christine Blum** by Eileen

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**Langhorst** by Mr. & Mrs. George Langhorst; **Robert Daniel Lange** by Robert, Nancy & Debra Lange; **Elda Lannbrecht** by Mr. & Mrs. Ken Duescher; **Don Larson** by Linda Larson; **Mearl Larson** by Mrs. Mearl Larson; **Rev. Mark F. Laugavitz** by Vicki Laugavitz; **Lola Leggett** by Reiny & Maureen Friedrich; **Darrell Legried** by Richard & Jane Hoelz, Ken & Peggy Liske; **Al Lehenbauer** by Wanda Lehenbauer; **Bob Ley** by Patricia Klinge; **Ann Lieske** by Rev. Bruce Lieske; **Hans Lillevik** by Debra & John Haugen; **Roger Lindemeier** by Helen Bunge; **MaryAnn Lindula** by Mildred Molenda; **Rev. Arthur F. Lindner** by Mr. Daniel Lindner; **Harold List** by Irma List; **Rosalyn Lowe** by Mr. & Mrs. Leland Fuhrman; **Jack Lowry** by Arthur Janzow; **Clarence Lueck** by Dorothy Lueck; **David Lucht** by Ron Duchrow; **Frank Lyons** by Nathan & Kaylyn Wehrman; **Dennis Maier** by Mrs. Myrtle Maier; **Gary Maier** by Mrs. Myrtle Maier; **Nathan Maier** by Mrs. Myrtle Maier; **Karen Maloney** by John Maloney; **Dale Marburger** by Sylvia & LeRoy Staff; **Sister Clara** by Esther Marose; **Clarence Martin** by Roger & Carolyn Kahler; **Kenneth A. Marquardt** by Arlie & Doris Marquardt; **Clarence Ruel Martin** by Reiny & Maureen Friedrich; **Shirley Martinec** by Charles Martinec; **Robert & Pauline Martens** by Larry, Marry & Katie Stein; **Their grandchild** by Thomas & Roxanne Martensen; **Kathleen Mascha** by Olive Mascha; **Donald Sr. & Doris Jean McKillop** by Rev. Don McKillop; **Jean McKillop** by Rev. Don McKillop; **Sara McKin** by Bernadyne Herndon; **Rev. Mark Meschke** by Juanita Meschke; **Pastor B.F. Meschke** by Mrs. Juanita Meschke; **Rev. Kevin Meyer** by Jay & Jeanne Mackay, Trisha Adams; **Richard Meyer** by Janet Ritter; **Ronald Meyer** by Paulette Meyer; **Nancy Miessler** by B. Ellen Lehenbauer; **Aunt Irene** by Mr. & Mrs. Walter Miller; **Rev. Dr. Edward Miller** by Mr. Edgar Allen; **Leo Miller** by Naomi Miller; **Norma Miller** by Carolyn Hase; **Robert Miller** by Rev. Bruce & Deb Lakamp; **Walter F. Mills** by Ronald & Charla Mills; **Mrs. Lois Miskimen** by Rev. Robert Miskimen; **Donald R. Moe** by Alice Moe; **Ruth Mohr** by Harley Mohr; **Arnold Moldenhauer** by Herbert Moldenhauer; **Jeanette Moll** by Ed & Esther Oehme; **Elizabeth Morgan** by Lt. Col. Leonard Morgan; **Edna Moy** by Carolyn Jaquish; **Aaron Mumm** by Vernon & Rachel Carlow; **Daniel Murphy** by Lanthrop & Gage LLP, Jeanne & Jay Mackay, Missouri Valley LFL, Beverly Hendrick; **Gordon Nahnsen** by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Trost; **Ray Nagy** by Mrs. Robert White; **Carlton Nelson** by Evans & Ruth Klinger; **Rev. Richard John Neuhaus** by Reverend & Mrs. E. Paul Burow,

## 2009 Memorials

Chaplain Rev. Mark Luecke; **Ron Neuhaus** by Larry & Karen Neuhaus, Pastor & Mrs. Don Meyer; **Ina Nelson** by Lyle Nelson; **Robert Nelson** by Ron & Carol Jochimsen; **Elvira Neumeyer** by Mrs. Sherwood Armbrrecht; **Robert J. Neville** by Leila K. Smith; **Violet Nicholsen** by Sandra Mentan; **Catherine Nielson** by Mr. & Mrs. Trost; **Richard Neilson** by Pat Nielson; **Margo Neiman** by Daniel Bockelmann; **Fr Richard John Neuhaus** by Rev. Steven Tibbetts; **Mrs. Clara Newton** by Mrs. Clara Hunter; **Caitlin Nowliszewski** by Tom & Nancy Nowiszewski; **Shila Oberembt** by Karel Reiman; **Dorothy O'Connor** by Katie Friedrich, Reiny & Maureen Friedrich; **Betty Oehlsen** by Richard Oehlsen; **Dorothy Olinzock** by Cheryl Hipple; **Hildred Osborn** by Janice Oppedahl; **Joan Lea Oostenbrug** by Ardella Butler; **Timothy Jay Oostenbrug** by Ardella Butler; **Dale Otto** by Marlene Otto; **Dakota Pascoe** by Elanor Busam; **Hazel Patten** by Luella L. Weber; **A member of their congregation** by Peace Lutheran Church; **Her Mother** by Sandy Penoske; **Keith Pegorsch** by Rev. Dennis & Grace Pegorsch; **Leah Perry** by Jon & Marlys Perry; **Jonathan Elija Peterson** by Harriet Stennfeld; **Gerhart & Alvera Petrich** by Ilene Zastrow; **Heather Petrich** by Ilene Zastrow; **Dean Phelan** by Eleanor Phelan; **Helen Pingel** by Larry & Wanda Allensworth, Muriel Armbrrecht, Russell & Mary Crane, Mona Krupicka, Joyce Peters, Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Madalon, Gerald Schradle, Andrea Urban; **Karis Pingel** by Teresa Fairrow; **Marie's mother** by Marlene Platz; **J. Dan & Dorothy Powell** by Matt Powell; **Emma Prange** by Mr. George Prange; **Shirley Pratt** by Carolyn Jaquish; **Ruth Precht** by Ken Precht; **Paul Proft** by Florence Proft; **Dr. Jay Pronk** by Jim & Rox Anne Lamb; **Ray Quade** by Robert & Lydia Voyle; **Brenden Kyle Rainey** by Constance Rainey; **Anthony M. Rasper** by Mr. Timothy Rasper; **Charlotte A. Rasper** by Mr. Timothy Rasper; **Susan Hickey Rathenberger** by Warren & Ruth Hickey; **Lester Recknor** by Agnes Recknor; **Lyn Recknor** by Agnes Recknor; **Otto & Martha Reinbacher** by Ms. Judith Warren; **"Boomer" Reinders** by Sally Beckendorf; **Walter Reyes** by Sara Christansen; **Arnold Richrt** by LaDonna Richert; Mrs. **Arlene Riemer** by Ron & Carol Jochimsen; **Edna Rist** by Rev. William & Elaine Offenbeck; **David, Eric & Mark Robertson** by Rev. & Mrs. Richard Rickus; **Priscilla Andrews Robertson** by Rev. & Mrs. Richard Rickus; **Wilbert Robinson** by Mrs. Karen Robinson; **Charlie & Helena Roemke** by Jack & Janice Brown; **Eugene Rolf** by Mrs. Elda Rolf; **Leann Hanson Romines** by Don & Margaret Heithold; **Jennifer Rose** by

John VanDamme; **Billy E Ross** by Joanne Ross; **Sheila Rossi** by Robert & Lawanda Kieffer; **Lydia Roth** by Virginia Cronenberger; **Kathleen Rothering** by Rev. Thomas & Patricia Baker; **Father of William Rozendaal** by Lester & Beth Tepe; **Katherine Rupprecht** by Helen Jaeger; **Sainted Pastors** by John & Barbara Burgess; **Rebecca Sattelmeier** by Rev. Glenn & Lorraine Sattelmeier; **Lois Saucke** by Mr. & Mrs. Donald Saucke; **Stanley Saunders** by Evelyn Saunders; **Kathryn Scardina** by Anthony Scardina, American Legion Auxiliary, ALA Stafford Unit 290, The Men's Club of St. Therese, Ms. Jenlena Esancy, Ms. Bettie Petrock, Sheila Svennungsen, Beverly Zavash; **Dorothy Seitz**, Felicia Monaco, Lois & Ron Gibson, The Lewis Taylor family, Francis Shelton, The Suffolk Quilters Guild, Commodore & Betty Elliott, Raymond & Ardella Lockett, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Mustante, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Longuillo, Angeline Smith, Katherine Hybil; **Rev. Armin Schaefer** by Mrs. Audrey Schaefer; **Matilda Schaeckel** by Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Banning; **Charlotte Schedler** by Marie McQuarrie; **Alice Scheibe** by Dale Sattgast; **Martin A. Schettler** by Mr. Kenneth Peters; **Alfred & Rhoda Schmidt** by Patricia Schneider; **Nora Schick** by Andy & Roxanne Smith; **Reverend Dennis Schiefelbein** by Frances Schiefelbein, Reverend & Mrs. Herb Schiefelbein; **Nathan Schilling** by Wayne & Renee Chambard; **Kathy Schmidt** by LeRoy & Carol Schmidt; **Matthew J. Schmidtke** by Rev. Gary & Dorothy Schmidtke; **Robyn Schnaidt** by Eileen Schnaidt; **Lila Schoenke** by Franklin Schoenke; **William Scholdt** by Ms. Natalie Wehrman; **Elvira Scholl** by Jim Scholl; **Carl Scholle** by Dorthea Lea Albers, Paul & Linda Bartlett, Marv & Eva Landgraf, Jay & Jeanne Mackay, Trisha Adams, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Auch; **Mary E. Schram** by Maribeth Schram; **Merlyn D. Schram** by Maribeth Schram; **Oliver Lee Schrieber** by Joel & Misty Barthel, Gerald & Alice Rahn; **Barbara Ann Schroeder** by Dale Schroeder; **Frances Schuett** by Larry & Janet Noah; **Her husband** by Edna Schultz; **Laura D. Schultz** by Jane Wolfram, Mary Wolfram; **Marcine Schulz** by Boyd & Mary Ann Boyer; **Marie Schultz** by Rev. & Mrs. Eugene Ernst; **Richard Schultz** by Larry & Karen Neuhaus; **Her loved ones in Heaven** by Shirley Schultz; **Rebecca Schulz** by Barb Schulz; **Betty Schumann** by Mr. Edward Schumann; **Marcella & Edwin Schwalbe** by Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Schwalbe; **Mrs. Ada Schwandt** by Jim & Marge Otto; **Ernest & Margaret Schwede** by Donna Schwede; **Nancy Schwede** by Donna Schwede; **Rev. Juergen Schwarz** by Norma Schwarz; **Her parents** and sister by Donna



Schwede; **Rev. & Mrs. E.D. Sedory** by Daniel Sedory; **Rev. John Sellmeyer** by Suellen Sellmeyer; **Andrew Sheldon** by Ms. Carol Engel; **Leonard Siekert** by Jean Kenny, Joy Sickert; **Gerald Sigman** by Doris White; **Corbin Skinner** by Elizabeth Heino; **Lois Lorain Small** by Fred Fix; **Jack Smith** by Chris Smith; **James & Ruth Souler** by Rev. Robert & Ruth Becker; **Betty Souser** by Justin Dragosani-Brantingham; **Fred Spaeth** by Elizabeth Heino; **Linden Speers** by Carol Axtel; **Wayne Spencer** by Ms. Elfrieda Spencer; **Eugene Spaun** by Mr. Eugene Spaun; **Carol Spomer** by Mrs. Edith Armbrrecht; **Elton Sprengeler** by Lillian Sprengeler; **Robert Stafford** by Reiny & Maureen Friedrich; **Fran Steinbronn** by Edith Armbrrecht; **Betty Steiner** by Peter & Becky Bullock; **Carl Stier** by Pastor & Mrs. Don Meyer; **Richard Strubbe** by Allan & Donna Benson, Rev. Bruce and Deb Lakamp, Illinois Valley LFL, Jay & Jeanne Mackay, Trisha Adams, Paul & Joan Koschmann, Randy & Karen Frohwein; **Lyle Sturtz** by Rev. Bruce & Deb Lakamp, Randy & Karen Frohwein; **Mary Suedmeier** by Southeast Nebraska LFL; **Ruth Suhr** by Herman Johnson; **Her parents** by Jean Sund; **Evan Swarthout** by Sid Swarthout; **Fred Symmank** by Luella Weber; **Jean Ann Terhark** by Walter & Geraldine Licht; **Jean Terhark** by Ken & Marquita Hays; **Her mother, father, and brother** by Vivian Thompson; **Dianne Tieken** by Florence Paulus; **Elaine Timlev** by Mrs. Phyllis Zimmerman; **Gwen Tkach** by Janet Hasbargen; **Evelyn Toogood** by Leila K. Smith; **Virgil Treimer** by Jorge Velez, Margaret Treimer Velez, Peter Velez; **Julius Tritelli** by Rosalie Tritelli; **Walter & Ingrid Trobisch** by Rev Norman & Veda Magnuson; **Charles Tucker** by Gerald & Sharon Irwin; **Rev. Charles Tuschling** by Gertrude Tuschling; **Unborn Children** by Roger & Barb Olund, Kevin & Michelle Sabrowsky; **Marcella E. Unitis** by Joel & Diane Robinson; **Mayling Valder** by Kevin & Linda Patch; **Iva Marie Vance** by Inez Leppert; **Cleo Vandervort** by Glennise & Michael Wendorf; **Milda Van Airsdale** by Mrs. & Mrs. Robert D. Ferguson; **Katherine Vancil** by Luella Weber; **Mark VanDyke** by Ken & Margurita Hays, Rev. Bruce & Deb Lakamp; **Martha Lucia Velez** by Jorge Velez, Margaret Treimer Velez, Peter Velez; **Neil Venhagen** by Allan & Donna Benson; **David Von Haltum** by Stephen Vol Holtum; **Victims of abortion** by Rev. & Mrs. Leazer; **Milt Wabner** by Eileen Wabner; **Reta Wafart** by Linda Fields; **Helena Wagner** by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Nielsen; **James P. Walden** by Jim & Mary Walden; **Martha Walker** by Ruth Walker; **Norbert Waterstreet** by Mr. & Mrs. Ken Duescher; **Paul Watkins** by Lorraine

Watkins; **Rex Watkins** by Lorraine Watkins; **Mary Grace Webb** by Mr. David Webb; **Berdina Weber** by Rev. Paul Weber; **Bill Wehman** by Lois Wehman; **Herbert Wehrman** by Ms. Natalie Wehrman; **Former pastors, teachers and professors** by Rev. Ronald & Jean Weidler; **Albert & Bertha Weidner** by Rev. Arthur & Angeline Weidner; **Louis & Lydia Weiss** by Rosemary Weiss; **Sandi Weiss** by Mr & Mrs. Trost; **Carol Wenger** by Mr. & Mrs. Obert Aurich; **Gladys Wengert** by Hugo & Muriel Armbrrecht; **Theresa Wentworth** by Donald & Joan DeGeest; **Alvin Wertz** by Florence Paulus; **Anna Wesenberg** by Allan & Donna Benson; **Emily Westberg** by Rev. Bruce & Deb Lakamp, Jim Riddle; **Annette Westphal** by Diana & Wayne Westphal; **David Westphal** by Wayne & Diana Westphal; **Robert K. Wetzel** by Harvey & Marlene Beneke, Helen Bunge, Carolyn Wetzel, Carver lifelines LFL, Keith & Orma Kraai; **Emilie Wienke** by Elmer & Eva Zoch; **Margaret Wildman** by Louise Zahn; **Timothy Michael Wilhelm** by Betty Wilhelm; **Rev & Mrs. Henry H. Wilhelms** by Ronald Wilhelms; **Ethan Grant Williams** by Dennis & Judith Williams; **George Williams** by Dennis & Judith Williams; **Ruth Willis** by Richard & Mary Densmore, Reg Meyer; **Walter Wills** by Dorothy Wills; **Rochelle Winter** by Rev. Marlo & Marlene Lemke; **Minnie Wisniewski** by Don Sperlich; **Anna Wojahn** by Ernest & Joanne Wojahn; **Mother of Douglas Woelbeking** by Lester & Beth Tepe; **Marcus Wolf** by Norma F. Wolf; **Rita Wolf** by Willie Wolf, Erma Ockenga; **Andrew Woods** by Ed & Esther Oehme; **Nancy Woolery** by Rev. Wayne Woolery and Woolery children; **Son of Pastor & Mrs. Wohlers** by Ed & Esther Oehme; **Gert Wolka** by Rev. Edward & Susan Engelbrecht; **Anna Wolters** by Carl Wolters; **Francis Wood** by Victoria Wood; **Vance Raschan Wormley** by La Verne Wormley; **Bill Wright** by Lucinda Wright; **Candace Mae Yoder** by Alan & Iona Yoder; **Mr. Bill Zeige** by Dennis & Joanne Kruse; **Mabel Zielsdorf** by Julius & Anita Ost; **Bill Ziesemer** by Velma Ziesemer; **Milton Zuehsow** by Deborah Roberts; **Velva Zvirgzdins** by George Zvirgzdins.

## Lutherans For Life thanks all those who have given 2009 Donations in honor of:

**Mike & Diane Albers** by Carol Beile; **Alta Henry** by Walter Henry; **Andy & Donna Armbrrecht** by Edith Armbrrecht; **Mark Armbrrecht** by Edith Armbrrecht; **Ted & Deanna Armbrrecht** by Edith

## 2009 Honorariums

Armbrecht; **50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. Erwin Aufdemberge** by Virginia Bunchek; **Jacob, Hannah, Caleb & Zachary Auftenberg** by Erna Phillips; **Nicole Aufderheide Wade** by Fred Aufderheide; **Donald Bach** by Gary & Laurie Bach; **Giselle Baldwin** by Dorothy Kethe; **Bonnie, Nancy & Gayla** by Virginia Bartels; **Linda Bartlett** by Rev. & Mrs. Orval Friedrich; **Judy Bartz** by Harvey Wilkening; **Larry Bayless' 67<sup>th</sup> birthday** by Larry Bayless; **Addison Noelle Beaton** by Rev. Marvin & Marilyn Barz; **John Beaudean** by Lynn Beaudean-Morrison; **Lloyd & Louise Beckman's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary** by Dorteia Hamann; **Brylee Belle** by Dennis & Sheryl Schulze; **Isaac Bertschingers 1<sup>st</sup> birthday** by Rev. Robert Deardoff; **70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Edward & Lillian Betker** by Beverly Betker; **their grandchildren** by Duane & Ruthann Bettcher; **their ten grandchildren** by Rev. Richard & Gayle Boehnke; **Hubert Bohn** by Mrs. Darlene Bohn; **Marla Jean Braithwait's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday** by Lavon & Fern Bohling; **Bob & LaVerne Brandt's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary** by Doris Camann; **Dean Brandis** by David & Dixie Sebits; **Nancy Brokaw** by Jerita Brokaw; **William Brokaw** by Jerita Brokaw; **grandchildren** by Charles Brown; **Shane Ryan Brown** by Jeffrey & Sheila Fischer; **Dean & Carol Burkes 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** by Allan & Donna Benson; **Anna Burns** by Matthew & Carolyn Brott; **Bill & Carolyn Burns** by Suanne Taylor; **her seven grandchildren** by Elanor Busam; **Baby Dakotah Rae** by Mr. & Mrs. Bausam; **Pastor Frank Camann** by Doris Camann; **LaVonne Carlson's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday** by Mr. & Mrs. Steven Miller; **Jesus Christ** by Rev. C.F. Knappenberger, Rev. Larry & Jean Rockemann; **Mrs. Freda Christen** by Rena Roberts; **Gertrude & Melvin Clausen** by Wendy Clausen; **Amanda Cohee** by William & Susan Cohee; **Mary Ann Cox** by Ken Cox; **her mother** by Magdelene Den-schane; **Connie Davis** by Robert & Debbie Kasper; **Tim & Rhoda Davis** by Edith Armbrecht; **their children** by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Deardoff; **the baptism of Tyler John DeJong** by Ted & Randa Pearson; **Mrs. Betty Dueker's birthday** by Linda Halliburton; **the birth of Isabella Durrant** by Beth Kraegel; **Amelia, Bryn, Ellie & Bereket** by Jean Edwards; **Lila Ethier** by Mr. & Mrs. Pat Stanton; **Grace Elaine** by Kevin & Michelle Church; **Joyce Ann Erickson** by Todd Erickson; **Helen Ewald** by Charlotte Ewald; **her loved ones** by Lucille Fick; **Kenneth & Rebecca Fick's 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary** by Mr. & Mrs. Don Troester; **Alexandrea Floyd** by Mr. & Mrs. Milton Weiser; **Stephani Marie Foley** by Sharon Allbee; **Ralph & Kathy Forke** by Reverend Terry & Cheryl Forke;

**three healthy great granddaughters** by Allen & Lorene Franklin; **Bob Friedrich Sr.'s birthday** by Katherine Friedrich; **Elizabeth Frederick** by Kimberly Lowe; **Pastor Charles & Janet Froh** by Ruth Klinger; **Veronica Gaffney** by Mr. & Mrs. Donald Schutte; **Jean Garton** by Rev. & Mrs. Orval Friedrich, Rev. Alvin & Sylvia Lange, Dr. Edwin A. Trapp, Verna Linder; **Evelyn Gellert's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday** by Allan & Donna Benson; **Miriam Grace Gimbel** by Rev. Dr. James Gimbel; **A.J. Grabinski** by Lawrence Grabinski; **the confirmation of Garrett Guimond** by Michael & Glennise Wendorf; **Marilyn Goldsby's 55<sup>th</sup> birthday** by Ed & Esther Oehme; **Rev. Timothy Green** by St. Luke Lutheran Church; **Calvin & Phyllis Hanscom** by Rhonda Gordon; **her sons Jim & Bill** by Esther Hawley; **Neva Heckman** by Janet Askew; **Rev. Elton Heimsoth** by Lexington Health Care Centers; **Pam's Birthday** by Harris & Clara Heinemann; **Stephen D & Lauren Hentz** by Rev. Bob & Marion Hentz; **Rev. Fred Hertwig** by Elaine Hertwig; **Rose, Romy, Rory, Matthew and their parents** by Ellen Hetz; **Rev. John Hieber** by Mr. & Mrs. Adolph E. Firchau; **Clive & Otto** by Dr. Ron & Linda Highland; **Pastor Robert Hill** by Mr. & Mrs. William G Farrell; **Rev. & Mrs. Theo Hinck** by Joel & Maxine Hinck; **their son's birth mothers** by Dean & Deanna Hobelmann; **Lorraine Hofmann** by Elwyn Hofmann; **David Hohbein's 64<sup>th</sup> birthday** by David & Helen Hohbein; **Arlene Huber** by Arthur Huber; **Larry & Martha Hubers 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary; her oldest grandchild** by Sharon Jackson; **John** by Emilia Eiras; **his daughter** by Richard Johnson; **Ellen Jordan** by Lily Thorsen; **Otto & Olga Juergens** by Keith Jugerns; **Pastor Scott & Denise Johnson** by Joe R. & Sandra Herman; **Dorothy V. Kahre's birthday** by Yvonne & Bryan Mans; **all their children** by Mr. & Mrs. Joe L. Kimmel; **Sonja Kirk** by Tressa Weyer; **Rebecca & Martin's baptism** by Harvey & Joanne King; **Elsie Kleinschmidt** by Mr. & Mrs. Pat Stanton; **their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary** by Larry & Donna Klosterman; **Frank & Cindy Knights 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary** by St John Ladies Aid; **Tom Koehler** by Rev. Luther Koehler; **wife Lucy Koehler** by Rev. Luther Koehler; **Paul & Joan Koschmam** by Reverend Terry & Cheryl Forke; **Bob Kreitz** by Rev. & Mrs. J David Wende; **Mrs. Lucy Kufchl** by Kathryn Beck; **Carol Kusterer's birthday** by Elizabeth Kusterer; **Pastor Bruce & Deb Lakamp** by Trinity Lutheran Ladies Guild; **their ten grandchildren** by Rev. Bruce & Deb Lakamp; **Dr. Lamb** by Tom Morofski, Mt. Calvary PALS for Life; **Lucille Lange** by her family; **Baby Lauren** by Ms. Erna Schmid; **Miss Sonia Marta Leazer** by Rev. &

Mrs. Carl W. Leazer; **Little Ones** by Earl & Florine Schmidt; **Bob Ludwig** by Rev. & Mrs. Edward Hiller; **their grandchildren** by Keith Lund; **Nathaniel Mahlke** by LeAnn Mahlke; **baptism of Morgan Grace Mielke** by Brenda Mielke; **the confirmation of Kasey Manley** by Michael & Glennise Wendorf; **Esther Marose's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday** by Marie & Delmas Heinke, Jeff & Shawn Dean, Jim & Etheline Marshall, Goldie Dutschmann; **Rev. Martin Marquardt's 50 years as a Lutheran Pastor** by Rev. Martin & Dorothy Marquardt; **Jean Masterson** by Albert Masterson; **Julie Mathers' birthday** by Dorothy Einspaher; **Mrs. Violet McCloed** by Dorothy Grummer Stewart; **Lisa Meech** by Mrs. Janice Powell; **her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday** by Mrs. Juanita H. Meschke; **Viola Meyer** by Allan & Donna Benson; **Robert R. Mickey** by Mrs. Sheila Mickey; **Military Personnel serving in Iraq & Afghanistan** by Marvin & Jacqueline Bartels; **her two daughters** by Hannah Moss; **the baptism of Marissa Louise & Mariah Charlotte Moorman** by Ted & Randa Pearson; **Brenna Musson** by Holly Giertz; **Florence Joersz Nagle** by Jerald & Ann Joersz; **William Naumann** by Rev. Norman & Eunice Nissen; **Jeremy Timothy Nissen** by Rev. Norman & Eunice Nissen; **Pastor Nour** by Alice Dewey; **Tatum Elizabeth** by Rita O'Connel; **baptism of Anna Margaret Ohlensehlen** by Dennis & C.J. Ohlensehlen; **Dave & Ruth Olson** by Edith Armbrecht; **her mother** by Denise Otten; **Judith Otten** by Mark Otten; **Fred & Judith Otten** by Aaron & Rebecca Otten; **Elizabeth Hope Pederson** by Erik & Debbie Pedersen, Beth Kraegel; **Joyce Peters** by Mrs. Mona Krupicka; **Rick & Gayle Poland** by Mrs. Harvey Wilkening; **Ms. Julie Probst** by Mr. & Mrs. Jordaen H. Eggers; **Laverne Rauch** by Allan & Donna Benson; **Lillie Redding** by Lorraine Schuchard; **Jim & Sigrid Reeves** by Mr. Harvey Wilkening, Jr. **their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary** by Marlin & June Reiners; **two adopted nephews** by Brenda Riewe; **Mr. & Mrs. Richard Roembke's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** by Ed & Esther Oehme; **Hugo & Ruth Roman** by Jean Michele Roman; **14 grandchildren & 9 great grandchildren** by Virgil & Kathleen Rosin; **Their 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary** by Virgil & Kathleen Rosin; **Robert Rowles** by Rev. & Mrs. Edward Hiller; **Ruby Rudd** by Ruby Maschke; **Rev. & Mrs. Richard A. Salcido** by Vicki Laugavitz; **Alice** by Rev. & Mrs. Fred Sauder; **Mr. & Mrs. Leo A Schlesseyulman** by Ken & Mary Ann Cox; **Joshua Rikli** by Richard & Peggy Rikli; **Faith Addison Ritter** by Mrs. Linden C. Speers; **Mr. & Mrs. R. Rohlf**s by David & Ruth Mills; **Michaela Rose** by

John VanDamme; **Josiah & Aria** by Julene Sagissor; **Tony & Jon Schmitz** by Margaret Schmitz; **Lois Schnare** by Missouri Valley LFL; **Henry & Shirley Scheuermann's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** by Rev. & Mrs. Horst Hoyer, George & Margie Milz, Henry & Shirley Scheuermann, Eugene & Jennie Martin; **the birthmothers of their grandchildren** by Mr. & Mrs. Verdell Schramm; **Dorothea Schroder** by Aletha Voges; **Diane & Carl Schroeder** by Victor & Caroline Norderud; **all three of her children** by Edna Schultz; **Art & Mildred Sebolt's 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary** by Raferd & Sheila Kaiser; **Ada Segall** by Ray Rogers; **Margaret Speers** by Carol Axtel; **their grandchildren and great grandchildren** by James & Lee Steinberg; **St John's Lutheran Church** by Nanette Gassner; **St John Vespers Circle** by Gilbert & Bonnie Berrey; **Louis & Tillie Stolte** by Joel & Maxine Hinck; **Mark & Kristine Stolzenburg** by Jane Stolzenburg; **Harold & Ruthann Stults** by Warren & Joan Braun; **Lydia Grace Styf** by Rev. Marvin & Marilyn Barz; **Myra C. Summerer** by Duane Summerer; **Gabriel Swarthout** by Sid Swarthout; **Pastor Thackery** by Raymond & Lorma Zinnel; **Gladys Theil's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday** by Gladys Thiel; **Scott Thomson** by David Bowlby; **Julie Renae Tidrick** by Lawrence Tidrick; **Raymond Totz' 90<sup>th</sup> birthday** by Allan & Donna Benson; **Trinity Lutheran Church** by Delmas & Marie Heinke; **Sarah Lynn's first communion** by Roger & Sharyl VanVechten; **Rev. & Mrs. Jonathan, Emily, Luke & Grace Vollrath** by Philip & Ruth Vollrath; **grandchildren Carissa, Shannon & Cody** by RuthAnn Voss; **Emma Von Stein** by Rev. & Mrs. Edward Hiller; **Leonard Wallenmeyer** by California Area LFL; **David & Marie Weddingham's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** by Rev. David & Vivian Meyer; **Jane Webster** by Dennis & Monica Boesdorfer; **their grandchildren** by Ralph & Ruth Wehmeyer; **Ernest Weick** by Jerald & Ann Joersz; **Rev. J. David Wende** by Francis P. & Donna W. Graves; **Nanci Willson** by David Bowbly; **Kimara Winters** by Elaine Knief; **Rev. & Mrs. Donald Winterround** by Vicki Laugavitz; **their 14 grandchildren** by Rev & Mrs. Ellsworth R. Wippich; **Brianna & Hadley Worley** by Matthew & Carolyn Brott; **the birth of Levi Michael** by Raymond & Lorma Zinner; **Marilyn Zimmerman's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday** by Donald & Norma Troester.

**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*.

### **April 4 – The Resurrection of Our Lord**

Death is not a friend to turn to for rescue from our problems. Death is our enemy, the wages of sin. But today we rejoice because death is a defeated enemy! (1 Corinthians 15:26) The resurrected Jesus defeats death, brings life, and makes all things new! (Isaiah 65:17-25)

### **April 11 – Second Sunday of Easter**

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe” (John 20:29). That’s us! Blessed with faith and therefore blessed with life eternal (20:31) and therefore blessed with peace in this life (20:19).

### **April 18 – Third Sunday of Easter**

The risen Christ confronts us with our sin as He did Saul (Acts 9:4). The risen Christ changes our hearts and opens our eyes (9:17-18). Like Saul, He calls us to be His instruments, pointing out sin and pointing to the Savior. When it comes to the life issues, changing hearts is number one priority.

### **April 25 – Fourth Sunday of Easter**

When confronted with life’s difficulties, we need not turn to our own solutions or the solutions offered by the world. Regardless of how “out of hand” things may seem, we remain secure in the hands of the risen Jesus, the eternal God (John 10:28-29).

### **May 2 – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

The joy that comes from the risen Christ cannot be taken away (John 16:22). This is not a feel good happiness dependent upon circumstances. It is a fruit of Christ’s Spirit, the joy of our salvation in Christ that circumstances cannot change or diminish. Many of the life issues we deal with today are “joy robbers” and present opportunities to share the joy of the resurrection.

### **May 9 – Sixth Sunday of Easter (Mother’s Day)**

“What is the world coming to?” we ask when we observe so much evil, so much perversion of the truth, and so many atrocities of nation against nation and man against man. Our hope in the midst of all of this is that Jesus came into this world. He overcame the root cause of it all—sin (John 16:33). In the victory of the resurrected Christ we find peace and the strength to endure and bring our influence to bear in this world as His people.

### **May 16 – Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Jesus prays for believers, for you and me (John

17:20). It is a prayer for unity, “that they may all be one,” and it is a prayer for outreach, “that the world may believe” (17:21). It is a prayer of promise assuring us of His love and His indwelling presence (17:26). We need not fear proclaiming the truth of God’s Word to this world. It is what we are called to do. It is what we are equipped to do in Christ.

### **May 23 – The Day of Pentecost**

The tower of Babel used God-pleasing technology, but not in a way that pleased God (Genesis 11:1-9). The technology to cure disease and to



enhance and prolong life is a gift from God. The misuse of this technology, therefore, is an affront to God. The Spirit of Christ enables the believer to discern between what one is able to do and what one ought to do based upon the Word of God.

**May 30 – The Holy Trinity**

It is critical in our times to answer the Psalmist’s question, “What is man that you are mindful of him?” (Psalm 8:4a) We have a Trinitarian answer. Man is the work of the Father’s hand, redeemed by the blood of Christ, and whom the Holy Spirit desires to call into an eternal relationship.

**June 6 – Second Sunday after Pentecost**

Death is a powerful and frightening enemy. Yet, death flees with a word from the Savior’s lips (Luke 7:14). Death is no match for the Lord of Life. We do well to consider this when choosing where to turn for rescue from our problems.

**June 13 – Third Sunday after Pentecost**

Once again, we see Jesus hanging out with sinners—a sinful woman who washes His feet and a sinful Pharisee who self-righteously

judges both her and Jesus (Luke 7:36-50). He confronts the Pharisee with his sin, and He comforts the woman with His peace. In our For Life work, there is no room for self-righteous condemnation nor for despair over sins committed. Jesus judges the self-righteous and loves and forgives the sinner.

**June 20 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

In Christ, God adopts us as His own children (Galatians 4:5). He treats us as His very own and promises us the inheritance of eternal life (4:7). Based on this, and in response to this, God’s people have always been champions of adoption beginning back in Rome when they rescued those babies left to die of exposure. This is a great Sunday to promote adoption and to encourage prayer and support for those seeking to adopt.

**June 27 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

The more the Word of Life is heard and taken to heart, the more fruit the Holy Spirit will produce in the believer. Think about this as you contemplate the various fruit, the more of these we have the more respect for life there will be.

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## Infertility ... a personal story

by Diane E. Schroeder



I remember it very well.

My sister, Sharon, telling our mother that she was pregnant with her first grandchild. As the older daughter that should have been me, but due to my struggle with infertility, my sister got the honor.

Dealing with infertility is a horrible experience. Pregnancy, which is a natural occurrence—and which many couples wish to prevent—is unattainable. A decision NOT to have children is made for you and you lose control over a large part of your life. Your life becomes fixated on doctor's visits, perhaps surgeries, and that feared monthly cycle. You look at other mothers, particularly those who seem to have no problem with pregnancy, with resentment. You cannot believe the flip-pant statements they

make such as, "I'd take a penny for this kid." People who don't understand ask questions, "Don't you want any children?"

Infertility is the death of dreams—dreams of children, a family, grandchildren.

I remember very well the struggle my husband and I had for years, the tears, asking God why? I remember my husband telling me, "Let go of it and let God handle it. Trust Him for whatever happens." That was tough

for me. But I reached a point where there was nothing else to do. And of course, God did handle it.

He used that whole experience to force me to rely on Him. He used it to direct my life in ways I would never have been led if children had been easy to come by. He engraved in our hearts a strong appreciation for the value of all life and particularly children. He led Carl and me to the pro-life movement and to the ministry of Lutherans For Life (and later Word of Hope).

It doesn't get better than this: to know God has used you to make a difference in the lives of others. That He has given you a purpose in this life. What a blessing!

God has given all of us a purpose in this life. I am blessed because that fact was so strongly impressed on me by my gracious God that I had no choice but to follow.

How about you? What events in your life has God used to direct and hone your service to Him? It

may not be infertility, but I bet there's something. Don't brush it off, embrace it. That's where the joy comes from!

Everyday, whether I go to my job at CareNet, make a presentation for LFL, speak to a pastor, or write articles, I know that I am following my God's calling for me. What a blessing to serve Him!

**"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps"** (Proverbs 16:9).



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**Our Mission** ... To witness to the sanctity of human life, through education, based on the Word of God. LFL has 12 state federations, 148 local chapters, and 191 Life Ministry Coordinators in the United States.

**Our Vision** ... To be a powerful, biblical, pro-life voice and resource to Lutherans and, through them, transform society.

**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.

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