

LifeDate

Winter 2009

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



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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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Slithering Silence



by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

I want to begin by talking about a serpent. Actually I want to talk to you about The Serpent, Satan. Of course, he was not silent. The first words from his forked tongue dripped with deadly venom. **“Did God actually say ... ?”** (Genesis 3:1) His first words worked so well to bring sin and death into the paradise of God’s creation that they remain his favorite words. He used them for centuries and continues to use them to poison the hearts of many against the truth of God’s Word.

This sly serpent has an accomplice to help him proclaim his favorite line—**silence**. I call it *slithering silence* to associate it with its serpentine master. Slithering silence really doesn’t have to do much except slither up and be there when some evil should be spoken against but isn’t. That’s when you hear coming forth from the silence quite loudly, **“Did God actually say?”**

Let’s take the evil of abortion for example. Some churches are silent about this. They have fears about being “political” or about causing division within the congregation. Slithering silence takes advantage of this and proclaims, “Did God actually say abortion is wrong? You never hear anything about it in church do you?”

I have pastors tell me they do not preach about abortion because there might be a woman in the congregation who has had one and they do not want to offend her. I can understand where that might come from. But of the many women I know who have had abortions, I have yet to meet one who was of-

fended when it was talked about. I have met many who were offended because it wasn’t. For you, see slithering silence proclaims, “Did God actually say you could be forgiven for this terrible sin? You never hear anything about it in church do you?” Slithering silence seems to affirm the deceit their hearts are already telling them: “This sin is too big to be forgiven.”

Silence is not a neutral position. It speaks loudly. It is never an appropriate position for the church when it comes to sin. It is never an appropriate position for the church to be silent about the life issues. Things like abortion, embryonic stem cell research, and physician assisted suicide are held up as solutions to our problems. Our people hear the many voices telling them that death is our friend. That we can turn to death for rescue from our struggles and pain and suffering. There is a name for this—**idolatry**. When the church is silent on these issues, then slithering silence speaks, “Guess God didn’t actually say these things are wrong. Go for it!”

The truth of God’s Word has much to say about the value that God gives to life and why life is so precious to Him. The truth of God’s Word has much to say about God demonstrating His love for life in the gift of His Son and how through His suffering and death and resurrection He has rescued us from sin’s condemnation. The truth of God’s Word has much to say about the promises of God never to leave or forsake those He has purchased with His blood and to be at work even in struggles and pain and suffering to strengthen us and accomplish His will for our good. We are called to speak this truth of life so that silence has no place to slither and Satan’s favorite line is replaced with, **“Be of good cheer, God actually *did* say!”**



Amazing Ultrasound News

Handheld Ultrasound

New technology hailed as a stunning leap forward in modern health care may be about to give pro-life advocates unheard-of power to save a life—in the palm of their hand.

General Electric recently unveiled the ultraportable and user-friendly *Vscan*, an ultrasound machine about the size of a large flip phone. Dubbing it “the stethoscope of the 21st century,” the company offered various scenarios in which the device could vastly advance the landscape of diagnostics.

For pro-lifers on the front lines, the new gadget could hugely improve abortion-bound women’s access to ultrasounds, which have been found highly effective in helping mothers choose life for their baby. In the past, the sheer size of the devices has given pro-lifers a perennial puzzle over how to bring the heavy medical equipment into the paths of such women.

Chris Slattery, the founder and president of the New York pregnancy resource center Expectant Mother Care, called the breakthrough “absolutely awesome.”



“Our movement is going more and more mobile with ultrasound,” said Slattery. Some pro-life organizers, he said, are so devoted to the life-saving benefits of ultrasound that they have created “a whole sub-segment of the movement” dedicated to providing mobile ultrasound.

(LifeSiteNews.com, 10/23)

New Technology Lets Parents Hold Life-Size Model of Unborn Child

A London art student has developed a revolutionary new step in prenatal imagery that allows parents to hold a life-size model of their unborn baby.

Jorge Lopez, a Brazilian student at the Royal College of Art in London, pioneered the new use of technology to utilize 4D ultrasound images and MRI scans to construct plaster models that can delineate the unique form of each child.

“It’s amazing to see the faces of the mothers. They can see the full scale of their baby, really understand the size of it,” said Lopez.

The technology is regularly used at the College to construct architectural models, jewelry, and other new devices. The fetal modeling is currently undergoing trial use at a Rio de Janeiro clinic.

(LifeSiteNews.com, 6/30)

Note: Also see the article “When is a “Fetus” a Baby?: Twice-Born Macie” by Gary DeMar on page 21.



New Report Suggests Over One Billion Abortions Committed

A new report by the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute, entitled *Abortion Worldwide: A Decade of Uneven Progress*, points to the fact that over a billion abortions have been committed, say pro-life activists.

The Guttmacher Institute said that in 2003 approximately 41.6 million abortions were committed worldwide.

On average, this works out to more than one death by abortion for each second of the year. Since abortion has been available since before 1970 and very widely available since 1980, pro-life activists are saying that, even by a conservative estimate, the total number of preborn children to have been killed by abortion is likely in excess of one billion. If 40 million children per year were aborted since 1980 that would already make for 1.12 billion preborn babies killed.

“There simply isn’t anything close,” said Stephen Phelan of Human Life International. “Over the many years since this has become a practice, even legalized in many countries, you’re over a billion.

“There’s definitely nothing to compare. The closest thing you’d get to it would be the atheist, socialist dictators of the 20th century; and even they, in their gruesome efficiency, were only able to kill somewhere between a hundred and a hundred-seventy million people ... There’s no comparison.”

The Guttmacher Institute report also mentions the “high degree of safety” of abortions in communist China, but neglects to condemn China’s one-child policy or the forced abortions that occur there. It nevertheless refers to the “woman’s right to make her own childbearing decisions” and couches the report in the language of “choice.” According to the report, 8.8 million “safe” abortions occur in China each year, approximately 1 in 5 of all abortions worldwide.

(LifeSiteNews.com, 10/16)

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.

Abuse and Abortion

by Deaconess Kristin Wassilak,
www.word-of-hope.org



Media coverage of sexual abuse and abortion often causes an extra busy call volume to the Word of Hope hotline (888-217-8679). Calls increased again when two recent headlines broke: Mackenzie Phillips revealing her father's abuse, resulting in pregnancy and abortion, and Jaycee Lee Dugard who was kidnapped at age 11, held captive for 18 years, sexually abused, and conceived two daughters from her abuser.

Word of Hope callers are identifying with rape and with conceiving a child from their abuser. Most of them were forced to abort. Even if abuse and abortion may have been months or years ago, the headlines reopen the wounds of broken hearts. "Hannah" has allowed us to tell her story of how abuse and abortion are often linked.



"I was 16. 'My life is coming to an end I just know it,' I thought to myself. It was December 10. The phone rang. It was my mother calling to tell me not to go to school because I had a doctor's appointment. A little later she walked in and said, 'Let's go.' I went out to the car and we started our drive into the city.

"Just a few days before, at another doctor's appointment, I listened to the doctor tell my stepfather, 'She's pregnant.' My stepfather proceeded to yell and call me a slut in front of the doctor. When we got into the car, he said, 'Your mother cannot know about this; you are having an abortion.'

"When my mother asked me about

the doctor's appointment, I said, 'I'm pregnant. And would you like to know who the father is? It's your husband.' She replied, 'I knew it.' Not long afterwards, she drove me into the city for a very different doctor's appointment.

"When we arrived, I went to go sit down while my mother filled out the paperwork; then she asked me for the money. I couldn't believe she wanted me to pay for this. See this was not like any other doctor's appointment. This was an abortion clinic that I was at against my will because my stepfather had been forcing himself upon me sexually, and I became pregnant.

"Even though I was only a teenager, I felt attached to my baby. I didn't really want to kill my child. But I felt I had no real choice. I guess I could have run away.

"I experienced regret every day for the first year and then it lessened to special occasions like my birthday, Mother's Day, Christmas, the day of the procedure, and around the day that my son was supposed to be born.

"I felt so angry. I was angry with myself for not doing something about my situation. I was angry with my mother for making me have an abortion. I was angry with my stepfather for all he put me through. I was angry with the clinic for not asking me more questions. I was mad at God for allowing me to go through everything.

"Afterwards, anger led to depression and guilt. Suicide was one of my outs; I tried several times. That never got me anywhere except more pain. I hoped by dying I could see my baby, hold him and let him know that I was sorry.

"The road to healing has been long and

hard. I went through two great programs through Word of Hope with Grace Kern—the sexual abuse and the post-abortion programs. I struggled with forgiving my mother for not protecting me. I still struggle with forgiving myself for allowing these things to happen to me.

“God helped me through my depression. In His Word and through the Sacraments, He repeatedly assures me that He sent His one and only Son here to forgive me and to save me. When painful memories emerge, I hand them over to God again and again. There are still areas I work through with God’s love and care. I just take life one day at a time and go from there.”

For a long time, Hannah was scared to approach the Lord. Truth was, she thought He did not care what was happening. However, the seeming truth and the actual Truth could not have been farther apart. God exchanged the abuse of her earthly stepfather with His own perfect love. Truth was, her Father in heaven cared so much that He was healing her heart with His love, peace, and forgiveness in Christ.

As media spread sensational stories of sexual abuse, as Christmas looms with recurrent images of Baby Jesus, as Life Sunday reminds some of the babies they never held, let us speak and act tenderly with those who endure the pain of sexual abuse and abortion. God’s Truth is the Gospel:

“The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”

Psalm 34:18

“[A]s far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.” Psalm 103:12

(Kristin Wassilak is president of Word of Hope and serves as a deaconess at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and School, Brookfield, Illinois.)

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**

The Truth of Life



by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

Keeping truth alive is important. The eighteenth-century poet, James Russell Lowell, wrote, “Truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne.” If we forever lead truth up on the scaffold, if we try to do away with truth or ignore the truth, then we will forever be clearing the way for wrong to ascend to the throne and rule the day. Keeping truth alive is important.

It’s important in the Church. Paul recognized that in his time. To keep from being tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine, to keep that which is wrong from ruling in the Church, Paul says speak the truth of Christ and His Word (Ephesians 4:14). It’s important in the Church today. We need to speak it to one another, to help each other grow in the knowledge of God’s truth so we will not be so easily influenced by the latest falsehood. We need to speak the truth, but not in a way that condemns or condescends. Paul says, we are to speak the truth in love (4:15).

So often we only get that half right. We either forget the truth or we forget the love. Just speaking in love is not enough. Trying not to offend or trying to be tolerant of false teaching so you won’t rock the boat leads truth to the scaffold and wrong to the throne. Just speaking the truth is not enough. Yelling and screaming truth at someone sets up walls of defense. Truth might as well be on the scaffold because it is never heard. Wrong continues to rule the day. But when we speak the truth in love, Paul says we “grow up”! We **“grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ”** (4:15b). Ignoring falsehood and wrong does not make the Church “one big happy family.” Lovingly confronting falsehood and wrong with the truth on the

other hand, unites us as the Body of Christ with Him as our head.

Keeping truth alive in the Church when it comes to the sanctity of human life is important. Of course, we stir things up a bit when we talk about the life issues, like abortion and embryonic stem cell research and assisted suicide. These issues can be divisive. Some see them as political issues that we should not be talking about in church. Some see the opposite—that Christian action is needed to influence society. Others see them as personal issues and decisions and we shouldn’t be judging. For some it may indeed be very personal because they have been involved in such decisions in the past and it hurts to hear it talked about. So talking about the life issues in church can stir things up, but our purpose is not to divide. Rather, we desire to “grow up,” to be united into our head, Jesus Christ. In an effort to do so, we take Paul’s advice. Let’s speak the truth of life as revealed in God’s holy Word, and let’s speak it in love.

THREE BASIC TRUTHS TO SPEAK

There are three basic and foundational Scriptural truths about the value of human life. **The first truth of life is that every life is the handiwork of God.** The Psalmist says that God “knitted” (Psalm 139:13) each of us together in our mother’s womb. Job and Isaiah talk about God shaping and forming us in the womb. Yes, the truth of life is, every life is work of God’s hands.

The second truth of life is that every life is bought with a price. Even though we are the handiwork of God, sin separated us from our Maker. He had every right to abandon us, to turn us over to “human cunning” and “deceitful schemes” (14). But the truth of life is, God loved what He made with His hands so much that He was willing to pay dearly to buy us back. On the cross, Jesus became our sin, suffered our punishment, and died our death. Paid in full!

A third truth of life is that God desires a relationship, both now and forever, with those He created and redeemed. He wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of His truth (1 Timothy 2:4). He wants to adopt every human being, through faith in Christ Jesus, into His family, lead them, walk with them, and accomplish His purpose for each human life.

ONE SINGLE TRUTH: EVERY LIFE HAS VALUE

These three truths point us to a single truth—**every human life has value.** That value does not come from its usefulness or how it looks or how big or healthy or productive it is. The value of human life does not come from certain “qualities” we think it should have. The value of human life comes from the One who made it, who bought it back, and who desires to call every life for His eternal purpose. The embryo in the Petri dish, the baby in the womb, baby Sally in the neonatal intensive care unit, Uncle Ralph in the Alzheimer’s unit, grandma in the nursing home bed, you and me—we all have value because of what God has done.

This truth raises the life issues above being mere political issues and even above being just moral issues. When you destroy life at any stage of development, under any condition of health, you are destroying the blood-bought handiwork of God.

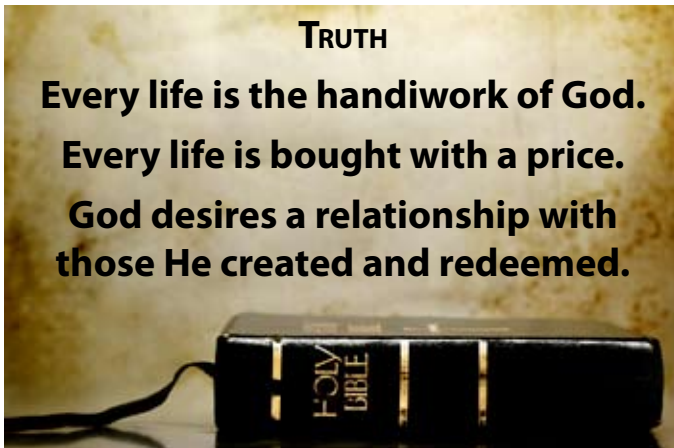
GROWING IN AND SHARING THE TRUTH OF LIFE

Every human life has value. We need to grow in that truth. For our silence about this

truth and our failure to apply it to the life issues has helped put it on the scaffold. When this truth is ignored, it allows the terrible wrong of the destruction of human life to ascend to the throne and rule the day.

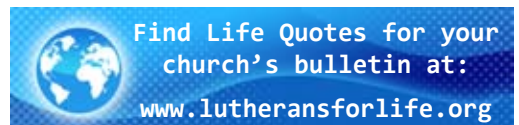
The flow of influence needs to change. We need to be influencing society rather than being “tossed to and fro” and riding the waves of whatever our culture deems right. Our society desperately needs us to teach them how to welcome every life and to care for every life and to value every life. We can do that because we have a God who, through Christ, welcomes us, who cares for us, and who gives value to us.

So let’s begin by speaking the truth of life



in love among ourselves. Let’s educate ourselves, not just on the life issues, but on what Christ’s Word of Truth has to say about them. Then, let’s take this truth about the value and dignity

of human life into our society and share it, boldly and courageously, but always in love. By the things we say and do, may we speak the truth of the value of every human life. By the things we say and do, may we speak the truth about the *source* of that value. The value of life comes from the One who made it, the One who bought it back, and the One who gives it meaning and purpose. God only has one “natural” child. He adopted all the rest.



Speak the Truth of Life in Love

by Kay L. Meyer



How do we speak the truth in love for life in today's world? How do we know when someone is speaking the truth? It isn't always easy to discern who is telling the truth and who isn't. (And it isn't just politicians who have trouble telling the truth.)

More and more families are being fractured due to sexual infidelity. Sadly, it isn't just unbelievers that are caught in these compromising situations. Some who are caught in these lies are Christians.

Let me share one example from my *Family Shield* radio program. We had been teaching about prayer and taking prayer requests. "Marsha" called after the program ended and asked me to pray for her and her husband. She said, "I better tell you why." She shared she had learned that her husband of 25 years had a long-term affair. Even worse, she found out about the affair when she went to her doctor and learned she had contracted a venereal disease from him. She told me, "He was my best friend—and now he has betrayed me. I just can't stop crying and can't seem to forgive him. But, I don't want a divorce. I want to learn how to forgive. Can you help me?"

I listened to her hurt, prayed with her, and encouraged her to attend church (she and her husband hadn't attended in over 20 years) and learn about her Savior who had suffered and died for her and her husband. I explained that as she learned more about Jesus and His forgiveness, she might learn to forgive her husband.

Before we can speak the truth of life in love we need to deal with the sin in our lives. Maybe the sin you are dealing with isn't like Marsha's. Maybe it's a sin of gossip or slander. Or maybe you continue to take the Lord's

name in vain. Maybe you have become addicted to pornography. Or, maybe you have stopped attending church on a regular basis. Whatever the sin, confess it to the Lord and ask Him to cleanse you and help you turn from it. He will!

Only after we have dealt with our own sins can we boldly speak up for life and be an influence in our culture. We are all sinners in need of daily forgiveness from Christ (1 John 1:8).

After we confess our sins to God and are washed clean, we need to look to the Bible for guidance and direction. **"The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever"** (Psalm 119:160). The Bible tells us to grow up into Christ. Here is what it says about building up the body of Christ.

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." (Ephesians 4:11-16).

One leader the Lord has given the Church today is Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb. Praise God with me for him and other godly leaders like

him. Dr. Lamb encourages everyone to remain in the Word, stay focused on the Gospel, and grow spiritually. He loves the Word of God and it shows. He wants us to share the truth in love for life with kind, caring, and compassionate hearts. By the way, for Boss's Day, the LFL staff took out this ad in a local paper.



THANK YOU TO REV. DR. JAMES I.
LAMB FOR YOUR FAITHFUL LEADERSHIP
OF LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

(SHOWN WITH GRANDDAUGHTER, JAMES)

*"Remember your leaders, those who
spoke to you the word of God."*

--Hebrews 13:7 (ESV)

FROM THE LFL STAFF

Many today say there is no absolute truth, but this is not true. As we look at God's Word we read, **"and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free"** (John 8:32). Jesus answered, **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him"** (John 14:6-7). Godly leaders understand that truth and life is in Jesus Christ, the Savior.

How can we speak the truth of life in love with kind, caring, and compassionate hearts? How do we discuss life issues with those who do not agree with us? Begin with prayer. Why not pray now? Ask God to give you holy opportunities in your daily life.

Teaching For Life®

A unique, Gospel-centered, positive way to help Lutheran teachers apply God's Word to the life issues! Nine key pro-life concepts—one for each month of the school year—are integrated into religion, math, social studies, language arts, and more!

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



Life:

From Father to Son

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



Sara grew up with her mom and dad in a Christian family. She longed for a family of her own. Over the years, a relationship grew with a friend named Barb. Barb appeared next to Sara in Christmas photos. Sara and Barb vacationed together. They bought a house together. In time, they decided they were ready to become parents together.

A baby boy was born to Sara nine months after in vitro fertilization. The two women agreed that Sara would stay home to raise “their” son. Barb remained in the workforce and assumed the role of provider.

The desires of two women had been met. They called themselves a “family.” Their son was lavished with love and attention. Great value was placed on his life.

Or, was it? What thought had been given to mentoring this boy-child? How will this boy perceive his importance as a man? Who will model responsible manhood to a curious teenage boy? What connection will there be with his father? If he fathers sons, what will he pass on to them?

“Patricide,” wrote Doug Phillips, “is the act of killing our fathers.” A society might intentionally or unintentionally practice patricide in numerous ways. Sara and Barb determined that a father was unnecessary for their son. “Big daddy” government discourages a father’s involved and responsible role by appearing to reward single motherhood but penalize marriage.

“Dishonor can be a form of patricide,” continues Phillips. “To dishonor a father is to strike at one of the defining relationships in the universe—that of the Father and the Son. Revisionist history is a form of patricide. When historians attack the spiritual forefathers of a nation, or when they pervert the legacies of the past, they engage in a form of cultural patricide.”

A faithful marriage and family that passes on the Good News of Jesus Christ is foundational for generations to come. Therefore, can we be surprised that Satan tries to sever the relationship between fathers and sons?

Many years ago, Phillips and his father traveled to Africa to work with the victims of terrorism. They met a man named Endabo

Musa. Phillips explains:

“As a young man, Musa was taken from his African tribal village and brought to Patrice Lamumba University in Moscow during the heyday of Soviet African expansionism. His father, the local tribal chief, had released him on the expectation that he would be receiving

a world-class education. In point of fact, he and hundreds of others like him were taken from their parents to be indoctrinated and trained in the arts of terrorism. The Soviet’s goal was to use these boys, many of them sons of local leaders, return them to Africa, and then destabilize the region.

“With tears in his eyes, Musa explained to us that one of the first orders of business for a Soviet-trained African terrorist was to go back and kill his own father, thus breaking with the past, showing true allegiance to the new Soviet philosophies, and ending the history of multi-generational continuity which had existed in the tribes for hundreds if not thousands of years.”



“Musa,” continues Phillips, “was sent to kill not only his father, but also a Christian preacher. Heavily armed and accompanied by other terrorists, Musa entered a packed soccer stadium where the preacher was delivering a message. Before he could perform the wicked act, the words of the preacher touched the heart of Musa, who abandoned his mission and became a Christian. Today, he is a pastor living in Germany.” (*Doug Phillips is the Director of Vision Forum, www.visionforum.org*)

The Soviets had adopted one of Satan’s strategies: Get boys to forget, reject or kill their fathers and a village—or nation—can be captured. But the Word of God is pro-life and, therefore, pro-father.

God opposes patricide with His design of patriarchy. It is part of His created order. In the beginning, God created Adam. It was to this first man that God gave the instructions for life and the warnings against death. Later, after God created Eve, Adam passed the Word of God on to her. The man would continue to pass the Word of Truth on to his children and his children’s children. This would be the order of life—the very rhythm and continuity of life—forever.

Sin disrupted the perfect relationship between God and His creation. The human race was doomed to eternal hopelessness—or was it?

The God of order is also the God of hope. God did not abandon His original design, but used it to bring hope in the midst of hopelessness. First, He covered His fallen creation with the promise of the Savior, Jesus Christ. Then, in keeping with His created order, He opposed chaos and death with patriarchy. God invited Adam and all of his sons and his sons’ sons to be sacrificial leaders, faithful husbands, and honorable fathers. As chosen vessels, God calls men to protect and provide for the family, instill vision, and pass on the Truth. Patriarchy loves life! It is propelled forward by hope.

To be sure, there are perversions of pa-

triarchy. A Christian man, however, should want nothing to do with distortions of truth. Consider the meaning of patriarchy and you will see God’s love. *Patria* (Greek for “father”) and *arche* (Greek for “beginning”) bring forth the idea of man as father, leader, mentor, protector, provider, teller of history, communicator of vision, and promise-keeper of the family. The patriarchal earthly father, like the Heavenly Father, sees children as blessings.

Earthly powers may seek to disconnect sons from fathers and intentionally break generational faithfulness.

Two “mommies” may reject the importance of fathers and, intentionally or not, devalue their own son.

But, the Father God re-connects, values, and forgives.

Every earthly father, regardless of his own or inherited sin, can learn from the Heavenly Father. The Heavenly Father did not abandon His creation, but is totally involved with and committed to His children. He is not content to have His family exist in chaos, but provides just and protective boundaries. He, indeed, brought eternal life through the defining and hopeful relationship of Father and Son.

That Son is our Savior, Jesus Christ. That Savior—God-come-to-earth-as-a-Man—can be trusted by every woman and every son or daughter who has ever been hurt by a sinful human man.

Patriarchy opposes patricide. Patriarchy loves life! It is propelled forward by hope. Patriarchy connects, repairs, restores! It builds its house on a solid foundation. Patriarchy tells the next generation what God has done (Psalm 78:2-4). Patriarchy serves others in humility.

“[N]o one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand ...” (Ephesians 2:9b-10).

A Grandfather's Story ... The Gospel Hits Home

by Rev. R. Allan Reed



Hopes were high and anticipation great on the morning of July 27, 2008. It was a Sunday morning, a beautiful day the Lord had made to give honor and praise to Him through His Son Jesus Christ. I had even mentioned during our second worship service out at Lake Marion, Minnesota, how much I was looking forward to baptizing my granddaughter sometime during the coming month. Oh, it was an exciting time for our daughter Jayne and her husband Andrew and all of us. Lucy would be the first grandchild on both sides of the family.

Then the call came. It came late that Sunday evening. They couldn't find Lucy's heartbeat. Jayne and Andrew were in tears as they visited with us on the telephone. We were all devastated. My wife Sherry and I immediately left for Sioux Falls. We stopped in Marshall, Minnesota, on the drive to pick up our youngest daughter Krysten. We would be there together as a family. (Our son, Bryan, would join us the next day.) So many questions and no answers! On the drive I started thinking about it all.

Why was this happening?! I was awaiting an answer and there was none. How could God bring this tragedy on my family? No! No! No! This wasn't happening. We were going to get to the hospital and everything would be fine. Yes! Everything would be just fine! But my heart kept getting heavier and heavier during the drive, knowing full well that everything was not fine. The Lord was watching over us all that night during the drive, for in the very early morning hours, though tired and emotionally exhausted, we arrived safely.

Nothing broke my heart more than seeing

Jayne and Andrew in that hospital room with Pastor Shane. There was nothing I could do to change what had happened. I was powerless! The two kids were both in tears. We were all in tears. She was a beautiful baby, eight pounds three ounces—with some dark curly hair, and even had what we called the Weber feet. As I held her in my arms with tears, I kept thinking about it all.

I began to ask myself a series of questions: Lord, what did I do that my kids and grand baby should suffer

like this? Have I been unfaithful to you? Was I an unfaithful son, brother, husband, father, and pastor? The sins and failures of my past were creeping into my mind, and I began to feel an overwhelming sense of guilt. The only experience more difficult than asking myself



Lucy's Eye on the Kingdom by Rev. R. Allan Reed

these questions was my subsequent realization that I had no adequate answers. Emotionally, I was on a roller coaster, and I could do nothing to relieve the pain in my aching heart. First, I rationalized that I had been living my life in such a way that this should have never happened to me. Then, the next moment, I was admonishing myself and trying to convince myself I was the most worthless person on the earth, deserving nothing but a living hell. I wondered how I could be saved from my miserable life.

Oh, how the answers seem to come quickly from inside myself. All of this was happening and nobody could answer why? It wasn't because they weren't trying or I wasn't trying. We were all trying to answer the great question. There had to be a good reason for Lucy dying. Maybe God knew something was going to happen to her and He took her early! The truth is I don't know and in this life I will never know! None of us knows. This is a harsh realization, nevertheless one that I had to face.

I couldn't help but ponder on it some more though—the Law had done its work! I was crushed. Tears rolled down my cheeks. I needed help. It was then that I began to recall the promises of God in His Word. One verse particularly touched me, Luke 1:41, **“And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb.”** Another verse of scripture came to my mind as well, Jeremiah 1:5a, **“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you.”** I had heard these verses time and time again, but only now was I truly reminded that God does not leave the least of us forgotten and lost. His presence is known even to the unborn! Joy filled my heart as I recalled Jayne, Andrew, and Lucy—all in the presence of their Lord in my church on that Easter Sunday 2008 listening to the Gospel message. Jayne had said that the wonderful gospel words, the sacrament, and the music of that day must have struck a chord

with Lucy because she was moving around so much. Joy filled my heart for Lucy. For the sake of Christ's sacrifice upon the cross and His blood-bought gift of redemption I know that Lucy now rests in the arms of her Savior and her eyes, which never had the opportunity to gaze upon the sun, now are gazing firmly upon The Son!

But one more thing needed to happen. I needed to realize anew that the Lord loved me too! Hearing the Gospel and the precious words of forgiveness from Pastor Shane on the day of Lucy's funeral lifted my heart so that I also could know that He has come for the least and the forgotten. He has come for me! He has come for us all! With that reassurance we left the church and drove to the cemetery where I led the committal service. It was the most difficult moment of my life. I was supposed to be officiating at her baptism, but instead I was committing my granddaughter to the earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust in the hope of the resurrection from the dead. And with joy only tears and sobbing voices could reveal we sang the old favorite hymn, *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*. For you see, the gospel of Jesus Christ had finally hit home.

Time has passed. As of my writing this article, Jayne and Andrew are with child again. I also have painted the picture of Jesus and Lucy as an expression of my faith and joy in the promises of Christ to all of us but especially the least and the forgotten—the unborn! I pray this image remains in my mind and upon my heart and yours as well, because a day seldom goes by that I'm not thinking about it all.

Rev. R. Allan Reed is pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Brounton, Minnesota.



Brand-New Christmas Bulletin Insert!



"When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."
Galatians 4:4-5

The First Touch
God touched life the first time in the creation of Adam and Eve in His image. But Adam and Eve and all subsequent humanity lost touch with God when sin shattered that perfect image.

The Second Touch
God touched life a second time when He sent His Son to redeem and restore lost humanity. That required a price God Himself would pay. Those little hands reaching from the manger were the hands of the Creator of life. They would stretch out on a cross. They would be pierced. They would bleed. That blood would be acceptable payment for the sins of the world. It would make possible our adoption as God's children who are guaranteed an eternal inheritance.

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God's love for life caused Him to touch the world. His touch bestows value to all life. People today desperately need to know the value His touch gives to life—life in all circumstances, life in all stages of development, and life in all conditions of health. His touch changes hearts and changes lives.

Would you like to help extend His touch of life and the value He gives? Would you like to help make a difference? Give us a call at Lutherans For Life.

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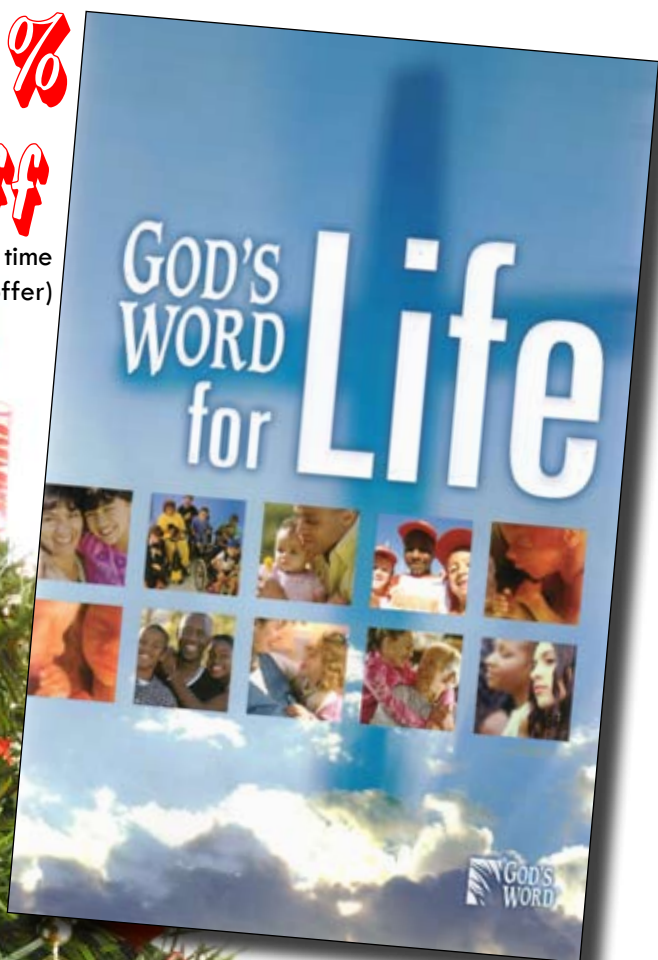
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Giving Granny the Bottle – A Duty to Die?

by Chuck Colson



How wide is the line between the right to die and the duty to die? I'm afraid we may find out soon enough.

Regular listeners to my *BreakPoint* broadcasts have heard me speak about the impact of declining birth rates around the world. One consequence is that older people comprise an increasing percentage of the population in places like Japan and Western Europe.

This increases economic pressures on these countries since an aging population requires more services while having fewer young workers to pay for them.

One doctor has come up with a way to address the imbalance between pensioners and workers—that is, fewer pensioners.

What Dr. Philip Nitschke has in mind isn't raising the retirement age—his goal is fewer pensioners.

Nitschke is the founder of Exit International, a self-described “world-leading Voluntary Euthanasia” organization. As part of his mission, Nitschke, who is from Australia, travels to different countries teaching people “how to end their lives safely.”

One of his methods is a dose of the barbiturate Nembutal. While in Britain, he told Reuters that “almost every 75-year-old I meet now sees merit in having their own bottle of Nembutal in the cupboard as an insurance policy, in case things get bad.”

Every 75-year-old? Clearly the Kevorkian from *Down Under* runs with an atypical crowd. As Reuters put it, “Nitschke’s is an extreme view.” Extreme, but unfortunately not unthinkable, especially given the trajectory of our culture.

At the same time Nitschke was speaking to Reuters, Britain was awaiting new guidelines for cases involving people who help

family members commit suicide. The guidelines are the result of litigation involving a woman with multiple sclerosis who plans to go to Switzerland, where assisted suicide is legal. She wanted assurances that her husband wouldn't be prosecuted for helping her kill herself. Britain's law lords ruled that she was entitled to such assurances.

While assisted-suicide is still illegal within Britain, attitudes are changing. For example, the Royal College of Nurses has gone from being opposed to assisted-suicide to a position of neutrality. You don't have to be an alarmist or even a pessimist to guess what the next change will be.

These changes coincide with the graying of the British population. Currently, 20 percent of Britons are over 65, and that is projected to rise to 30 percent by 2020. Pro-euthanasia advocates scoff at the idea that the elderly will be pressured to die by society, but British officials acknowledge the possibility. One told the BBC that he wouldn't want to live in a society that pressured its elderly to kill themselves to make life easier for their families.

The government's way of preventing that is laws that “strike a balance,” he said, between “sympathetic” cases and protecting the elderly. But you and I know where the road paved with good intentions leads. Without a bright line around the sanctity of human life, the extreme inexorably becomes the mainstream.

The so-called “right to die” can become, as one American politician suggested, a “duty to die,” especially as the costs associated with an aging population crowd out other priorities.

There is only one insurance policy against this nightmare—an unqualified commitment to the sanctity of life.

(From BreakPoint, September 30, 2009, reprinted with permission of Prison Fellowship, www.breakpoint.org.)

Pro-lifers held a massive rally in Madrid, the Spanish capital, on October 17 to protest against a government's bill to expand abortion. Estimates of the size of the rally vary. The regional government and the BBC estimated the crowd to be over a million. The rally's theme was "Every life matters." (Fr. Tim Finigan, 10/18; SPUC, 10/19)

A court set up under the British government's pro-euthanasia Mental Capacity Act has elicited thousands of complaints about its decisions in financial matters. The Court of Protection has the power to govern the financial and other affairs of mentally incapacitated people. Three thousand complaints have been made by patients' relatives about the court's heavy-handed and intrusive behavior. Anthony Ozimic of SPUC Pro-Life said: "We warned during the Mental Capacity Act's passage that a dangerous and extremely powerful legal bureaucracy was being established, transferring autonomy away from individuals and placing them at the mercy of officials." (Daily Mail, 10/25; SPUC, 10/26)

The European Parliament has voted down pro-life amendments to stop EU money being spent on coercive and sex-selective abortions. The amendments were partly motivated by opposition to China's one-child policy, which involves compulsory abortions, and to the abortions of unborn girls because of a cultural preference for boys in India. (SPUC, 10/19, 10/23)

Ireland has highest birth rate in the European Union, according to the latest figures. The birth rate increased by nine percent in 2007. Abortion is banned in Ireland. (RTE, SPUC, 10/9)

A former Peruvian health minister says pro-abortion feminist groups make false claims regarding illegal abortion numbers. Luis Solari said that when minister of health

he was able to confirm that the figures claimed by pro-abortion groups were several times higher than the official figures. Mr. Solari also said the pro-abortion groups in Peru were receiving money from foreign groups in order to change the law. (Catholic News Agency, 10/15; SPUC, 10/14, 10/16)

Sex education for children as young as four has started in Glasgow, Scotland. The youngest children will start by learning about body parts. This follows the announcement by the Scottish government that every secondary school in Scotland will have its own sex clinic. Supporters of the plan claim it will reduce pregnancies among teenagers, while opponents claim that the evidence proves the opposite. (BBC, Catholic News Agency, 10/7; SPUC, 10/8)

Peru's Catholic bishops have condemned a bill to allow abortion in the cases of rape and fetal deformity. The Peruvian bishops' conference said: "[H]ow can we accept the death penalty for an embryo that hasn't even had the time to commit a mistake and cannot even defend itself?" The bill has been approved by a committee and is due to be debated by the full Peruvian Congress. (Channel News Asia, SPUC, 10/13)

The head of the United Nations' food agency has said that population control is not necessary to combat food shortages. Dr. Jacques Diouf told a synod of African bishops meeting in Rome in October that "On the earth, there is a sufficient number of financial means, effective technologies, natural and human resources to eliminate hunger in the world once and for all." Dr. Diouf's position is in marked contrast to the calls for population control frequently made elsewhere in the UN system. (LifeSiteNews.com, 10/13; SPUC, 10/15)

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.



When is a “Fetus” a Baby?: Twice-Born Macie

By Gary DeMar



Technology has no morals. Things are not evil in and of themselves (Colossians 2:20–23). What people do with the things of this creation is the determining factor. This is certainly true with power (Matthew 10:25; 2 Corinthians 1:24) and wealth (1 Timothy 3:3; 6:10; Hebrews 13:5). Technological devices do not come with morality tags attached specifying how they should be used. Two men trained as physicians can use their skills to save a life or end a life. David Horowitz writes in his article *When Man Plays God*:

“When ultrasound technology (sonogram) became readily available to physicians, it was a boon to the medical profession, which quickly realized its practical applications. Relatively inexpensive, portable and un-invasive, ultrasound scans soon became one of the first tests to be performed in the routine examination of a patient’s heart, liver, lymph nodes, etc.

“Women, especially, benefit from sonograms, whose images can identify the causes of pelvic bleeding, menstrual problems, cysts and cancerous cells. And of course the general monitoring of the health of both baby and mother during pregnancy have made the sono-

gram an invaluable diagnostic tool.

“But there is a flip side to this coin—the abuse of ultrasound technology (or of any technology, for that matter).

“In societies that are culturally biased against women, the sonogram can lead to eugenics, genocide and murder. In many parts of the Islamic world, for example, the birth of a daughter can bring extreme financial hardship to a family, and the early knowledge of the existence of a female fetus developing inside the womb has led many a couple to either abort the pregnancy or hide knowledge of the pregnancy until birth, whereupon the baby girl was left on some hillside to die of exposure.

“In countries with a tradition of honoring the birth of a son and lamenting the birth of a daughter, such as Communist China, the practice of female infanticide has reached new heights. China’s deadly (for females) combination of its one-child policy on the one hand, and a longstanding preference for sons on the other, has led to extremely high abortion rates for girls; as a result, in some regions of the country the living population consists of 120 males for every 100 females.”

On the positive side, as Horowitz points out, there are a number of benefits, especially when the subject of abortion comes up. General Electric Medical Systems has developed 3D and 4D imaging. “To create 3D images, an ultrasound system determines the vol-



ume of a subject—for example, a baby. The system then reconstructs the image in three dimensions. As for 4D Ultrasound, only the Voluson 730 can gather 3D volumes and instantly reconstruct them into moving images.” The results are amazing.

Technology is a double-edged sword. As history attests, it can be used for both good and evil. For destroying the lives of preborn babies or for healing them. Here’s a story that shows the positive side of advances in fetal surgery techniques that incorporate sonogram imaging. “Just four months into Keri McCartney’s pregnancy, an ultrasound revealed a tumor growing on the baby’s tailbone the size of a grapefruit—nearly as large as the baby herself—that was stealing the baby’s blood and weakening her heart.” In order to remove the tumor, the six-month preborn baby had to be operated on. “Surgeons anesthetized Keri McCartney into a deep sleep in order to make sure the womb did not think the pregnancy was over during the procedure. After finding the right place that would not disturb the placenta, surgeons opened the womb and extracted about 80 percent of Macie Hope’s body, leaving only her head and upper body inside.” Amazing!

These types of procedures, as more people learn about them, could send the abortion industry into economic freefall. Here’s a question for the doctors who operated on baby Macie: Was the “fetus” a baby when you operated on “it”? Throughout one article I read, Macie was continually described as “the fetus.” Why bother with an expensive operation on a “fetus” who is not really a human being until “it” takes a breath? Why weren’t the parents told that at this stage in the pregnancy, the tumor was just as significant as the “the fetus” since they were nothing more than a mass of cells? Some news stories slipped up and called the pre-born Macie a baby. Good for them.

(From American Vision; 800-628-9460; www.americanvision.org; 10/6/09. Reprinted by permission.)

IRA Rollover to Ministry in 2009

Federal legislation passed in 2008 allows an individual over the age of 70 ½ to make a gift of up to \$100,000 in 2009 from an individual retirement account (IRA) to a non-profit organization without increasing their taxable income. This provision is called the IRA Charitable Rollover.

Congress also passed a waiver of the Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) for 2009. This waiver did not affect the IRA Charitable Rollover.

Need more info? Contact Kay Meyer: kmeyer@lutheransforlife.org;

Bringing Good News to Life! Be a part of LFL's 30th Anniversary Goal!

\$1,000,000 in 2009

\$300,000 of this is above and beyond LFL budget needs. That's \$100,000 to honor God for each decade of His blessings to LFL.



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See page 22 for more on Renewal For Life®!

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- Expand **Teaching For Life®** to Sunday school, Confirmation, and VBS.
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“Brick and mortar” are necessary (more efficient cooling and heating, more storage—and the parking lot is in serious need of attention).

We are asking for your help in thanking the Lord of Life for His past blessings and boldly moving forward as never before.

To find out more, please contact Kay Meyer, at kmeyer@lutheransforlife.org

Making an Impact with Renewal For Life®

by Jerilyn Richard,
RFL Coordinator



It's been one year! Renewal For Life® (RFL), Lutherans For Life's initiative to impact Lutheran pastors and congregations to be Christ-centered, enthusiastic, and ongoing voices For Life, officially started one year ago September!

Since that time, RFL has been shared with many pastors in congregations across the country.

The focus of RFL is Renewing the 3 R's:

Renewing Responsibility
Pastor + Church + Life Issues

Renewing Relevancy
Gospel + Life Issues

Renewing Resources
Online Library + Life Issues



We are finding a lot of excitement and support for Renewal For Life®! Members of LFL's grassroots have been working faithfully to share the Renewal For Life initiative with pastors in their area.

- Texas LFL has been presenting RFL to a great number of pastors in the LCMS and is in the process of reaching other Lutheran denominations in their state with the message of Renewal.
- The AFLC (Association of Free Lutheran Congregations) has been introduced to RFL, not only at pastors' meetings, but also through dedicated and faithful Life Advocates who share this important message to women's groups that have a passion to serve the Lord of Life.
- South Dakota LFL is also eager to share the RFL message starting in January 2010. (South Dakota's LCMS district president has invited Lutherans For Life to present RFL to ALL South Dakota circuits!)

These are only a few examples of the many servants sharing God's Word of Truth and connecting it to the life issues. There is a lot happening with Renewal For Life® but there is still much to be done! RFL is still in the early stages. There are many Lutheran pastors as well as Lutheran denominations that need to be reached.

Through pastors' meetings, word of mouth, articles, and newsletters, there are many opportunities to share what Renewal For Life is all about! We want to hear from you! Please contact Kim Nessa, RFL's Administrative Assistant, or myself, if you have any questions or if you would like information on how you can be a part of Renewal For Life®! (888-364-LIFE)

LFL in Action

Each year, LFL chapters, state affiliates, and Life Ministry Coordinators tell us what they've been doing For Life! Here are a few examples:

“Our chapter has fund raisers each year. The money raised is donated to [a local crisis pregnancy center]. This center advises and teaches women not to have abortions and helps women overcome the guilt they feel for having had an abortion. Materials and Bibles from Lutherans For Life are used in their devotions with unwed mothers, those considering abortion, and those who have had an abortion.”

“We have made recent efforts to team with a local chapter on certain life initiatives such as a *Hike For Life* which raised \$1,256 and we are jointly celebrating Life Sunday.”

“Our LFL chapter rented a billboard on the east side of town to proclaim an alternative to abortion by supplying a phone number for a center to call for help.”

“We give out thousands of Life Saver candies at the College Homecoming parade. We put a label on each Life Saver that says, ‘Life is Precious, Save the Unborn.’”

“We used the ‘Faith in Action’ concept in our congregation this year and asked each Bible study group to pick a project that could be worked on by all members of the group. One of the women’s Bible studies made the local CPC their Faith in Action. The women collected diapers and other baby items to be dropped off at the CPC.”

Need more ideas? Check out our *How You Can “Speak”* booklet (Item 100B. \$0.75 ea.).

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; 515-441-6571.

30 Years of Celebrating Life!

by *Jeanne Mackay*,
President, LFL of Kansas



The year was 1980. Coming into church one Sunday a husband, wife, and five children, filed into the pew after picking up the bulletin. The youngest child (to be born later) was not in the womb, but if she had been, the impact of what was to happen would have been even greater. For as the couple looked over the bulletin, the husband turned to the wife and said “where were we in ’73?”

This couple was Jay and Jeanne Mackay (yours truly). We were living on a 240 acre timber farm near Perryville, Missouri, raising two foster children and three of our own. The farm provided ample space to raise a family and as added bonuses, the holler (small valley) where we lived held the gorgeous hills and trees of the Mark Twain National Forest—with a fast-running creek between the house and manufacturing buildings.

Caught up in the statistics about abortion that the pastor had put into the bulletin and the notice that there was a new organization called Lutherans For Life, we searched each other’s eyes with a “what should we do?” look. We called the national office (at that time on the campus of Concordia–Saint Paul with Dr. Eugene Linse as part time director) and found out there was no chapter in our area. We would have to start one (Altenburg Circuit LFL, charter number four, and still active!).

Looking back, many hours, days, and weekends were filled with the work of LFL’s mission. In those early days, the children took part in everything that happened. We planned an all-day event and enlisted Jean Garton to come and walk around the courthouse square and speak on its steps. We traveled to St. Louis to see and hear Dr. Frances

Schaeffer and C. Everett Koop speak and show the movie *Whatever Happened to the Human Race?* (subsequently raising money to purchase the 16 mm film to take around to churches in Perry County). It was on that farm that Jay created the 4’ x 4’ painting *Neither Could They Blush* (shown below), a vision that was given him when studying Jeremiah 6. Our daughter Kristina (one-and-a-half-years-old) sat on Jay’s lap as he painted. She clapped her hands together and said, “baby, baby!” Even at such a young age, she could see the figure depicted between the stripes of the American flag was a baby—not a sponge or a carrot or “clump of cells.”



After a tragic fire (1984) leveled the building where we were operating a business (making wooden gift boxes for a jewelry company), we moved to Springfield, Missouri. It was there that a news article appeared saying someone left a baby on the steps of a house. That same daughter (“baby, baby!”), now a little older, asked “why?” When I told her that the mommy didn’t want the baby, she asked, “Why not? You would take care of the baby, wouldn’t you?” It was also in Springfield that another local chapter was started and where Lutherans For Life of Missouri was organized (and chartered in 1985).

Things went pretty well in Springfield, and as in Perryville, we had terrific friend-

ships with people, formed in large part due to involvement in LFL.

A business franchise opportunity appeared on the scene that required us to move again, in 1986, this time to Kansas City. To my surprise, the word had gotten out and a pastor asked if a chapter could be started. Our kids were now older (first through eighth grade) and very active in church and school, but the pressing need of educating people For Life remained. The need became even more evident as the values in our society were changing rapidly at the time.

In 1995, people gathered to form a chapter on the Kansas side of the KC area (Johnson County LFL). In November 2003 two Kansas women met to start the process of forming Lutherans For Life of Kansas. The rest is now history.

You might say “everything was on a roll” during these years—and yes, it surely was. Fast, furious, and fun, but always with education as the key ingredient.

As I look back, the celebration of LFL’s 30-year history is a recognition of God’s continuation of nudging hearts and minds to speak up For Life! For me, it has also been a terrific time of learning and growing, both spiritually and professionally. (Working with a ministry like LFL also seems to rub off on children and grandchildren!) To God be the glory!



The Mackay family in December 1979. (l-r) Jeanne, Kristina, Liz, Marcus, Rob, Jonathan, Jay.

You Can Make a Difference For Life!

Please call (515-441-6571) or e-mail (kmeyer@lutheransforlife.org) if you would like to learn more about any of these giving options.



Lutherans For Life is a pan-Lutheran organization and does not receive support from any church body.

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

Planned Gifts:

LFL can provide info on trusts, annuities, and other plans. Consider including LFL in your will.

Online Shopping Rebate Program:

Check out iGive.com at the LFL web site.

Lutheran Lawyers For Life

Lutherans For Life would like to know where lawyers who are For Life are located throughout the United States.



If you are a Lutheran Lawyer For Life, please let us know by contacting Kay Meyer (see above).

Giving Generously to Promote Life

by Kay L. Meyer



One thing leads to another! A few years ago Victor Both of Chicago saw the name “Lutherans For Life” in a church publication and wanted to find out more. With a little help from Illinois Right to Life, Diane Schroeder, LFL president, called Vic and a friendship emerged. Vic spoke with me recently and said, “Make sure you tell those involved with LFL that it was Diane’s call to me that helped me learn about Lutherans For Life. Before her call I didn’t even know Lutherans For Life existed! Little things like making telephone calls do matter!”

Today, Lutherans For Life is an important part of Vic Both’s life. One reason the organization is important to Vic is because Lutherans For Life staff and volunteers encouraged and supported Vic and his wife, Marian, during his late wife’s illness and eventual death.

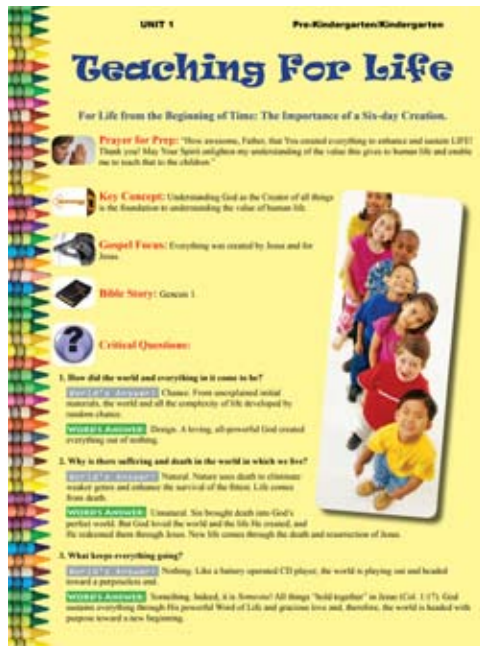
Karen Frohwein, former LFL Director of Development, mailed Vic and Marian a purple giraffe Beanie Baby during her illness. Her note said, “I heard that purple is Marian’s favorite color and I thought this giraffe might brighten her day and yours.” Vic told me that he kept the purple giraffe after her death and uses it to talk about LFL.

Of course, the main reason that LFL is important to Vic is because he cares about

life and he recognizes the excellent work that LFL is doing throughout the United States. Because of his concern for life Vic recently established a \$20,000 Gift Annuity with the help of his Thrivent representative (www.thrivent.com) and Lutheran Community Foundation (www.thelcf.com). He wants his support of Lutherans For Life to continue after his death. Vic told me recently, “Kay, tell others that care about LFL that Gift Annuities are the gifts that keeps on giving! The organization will continue to receive payments from my annuity even after my death.” He

hopes that his sacrificial gift will encourage others to consider a gift and that many donors will remember Lutherans For Life in their estate plans. Charitable Gift Annuities often offer a higher percentage rate than the current market allows which makes it a win/win for both the individual taking it out and the organization. For instance, Vic will get a good interest rate on his annuity.

Vic has given generously to LFL in the past, too. He and



Back row: Prof. Kevin Hall, Dr. Jim Lamb, Dr. Rodney Rathmann, Dr. Jim Gimbel. **Front row:** Kay Meyer, Diane Grebing, Robert Schulze, Dr. Carolyn Sims, Dr. Michele Pickel

his wife underwrote the production of our **Teaching For Life**® curriculum and also donated funds to support the recent gathering (see photo on page 26) of editors, consultants, and authors for the new **Teaching For Life**® expansion that is currently being developed for confirmation, Vacation Bible School, and Sunday school. He hopes many LFL donors will join him in supporting the cost of these important new life resources for children and youth.

Gift Annuities – Give and Receive

You too can give a gift to Lutherans For Life and receive a lifetime income by establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity. It's true!

How does it work? Here's one example from Lutheran Community Foundation (using current rates subject to change):

\$10,000 Annuity Income Stream

After 10 years	\$5,991
After 25 years	\$15,557
After 30 years	\$33,180

To find out more—with no obligation—give me a call at 515-441-6571 or e-mail kmeyer@lutheransforlife.org.

By the way, **Teaching For Life**® is making a difference! Here are a few comments from teachers:

“I like the variety of different ways you can integrate the key concepts in your day.”

“**Teaching For Life**® “is so colorful and well done, that when we opened up the first unit we wanted to do everything in one day!”

“The teachers’ guide was well prepared and looked great!”

“I like that there were activities to incorporate in all subject areas. I enjoyed hands-on activities.”

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

Lutherans For Life staff can assist you in getting connected to planned gift experts in your area. These experts can offer you comprehensive charitable expertise and services to help you provide for your family, loved ones, and ministries like Lutherans For Life.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Send to LFL (see address on page 2).

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

January 3 – Second Sunday after Christmas

Mary's at it again—treasuring things in her heart (Luke 2:40-52). There is plenty to treasure. Her child sits among the teachers in the temple amazing them with His questions and answers. Her child calls the temple His Father's house. Her child submits. The once exalted Son of God is now the submissive son of Mary and Joseph. It was His love for human life that made it so.

January 10 – Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 43:1-2 outlines what our Triune God has done that gives value to human life. He is our creator, our redeemer, and the one who calls us to be His own. This raises the issue of the value of human life way above the political or sociological. Every life is a life created by God. Every life is a life for whom Jesus died. Every life is a life God desires to call into an eternal relationship with Him. We need to think again if we believe that the life issues should not be talked about in church.

January 17 – Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah engages in name calling in 62:1-5. He calls desolate sinners by a new name—"My Delight." Here is a chance to address those burdened by hard-to-forget sins like the sin of abortion that make so many feel desolate. Remind them of their new name!

January 24 – Third Sunday after the Epiphany

They marveled at His gracious words (Luke 4:16-30). Then He got personal and reminded His

hometown crowd that they were sinners trusting in their heritage rather than God. That's when they wanted to introduce Jesus to cliff diving! Confronting sinners with their sin is not easy, but it is necessary for their salvation.

January 31 – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Known, formed, consecrated, and appointed—and all before Jeremiah was born (Jeremiah 1:5). It seems that Jeremiah was more to the LORD than the "product of conception" or "a glob of tissue" or some "non-human, non-person entity." So he was. So are we all.



February 7 – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Peter recognized the reality. "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing!" (Luke 5:5a). But he also trusted in something greater than reality. "But at your word I will let down the nets." (5:5b). People face difficult realities today—an unplanned pregnancy, a chronic disease, terminal illness. The world offers death to death with such realities. We have something greater, the Word of Life.

February 14 – The Transfiguration of our Lord

Moses reflected the glory of God (Exodus 34:29). Jesus was the glory of God (Luke 9:28-36). Moses' glory faded. Jesus' glory was seen again on a cross. Our glorious God came, suffered, died, and rose again that we might share in His glory. Our glory does not come from glorious things or glorious health or glorious relationships. It comes from our glorious God in Christ.

February 21 – First Sunday in Lent

To think that we cannot resist Satan and make good God-pleasing decisions is to deny the power of the One who faced Satan for us (Luke 4:1-13).

He repelled Satan with the Word, "It is written." He defeated Satan with yet another Word, "It is finished." Satan is a defeated enemy and through the power of the risen Christ and His Word, we too can resist his temptations to think as the world thinks.

February 28 – Second Sunday in Lent

There is much that insults us and assaults us in our world today. It's easy being a Christian, but it is not always easy living as one. We are challenged because we uphold the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman or because we uphold the sanctity of life from womb to tomb, and the list goes on. But our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20). Jesus protects His fellow citizens! We can "stand firm in the Lord" (4:1).

March 7 – Third Sunday in Lent

"Watchman" are to call wrong things wrong (Ezekiel 33:7-9). Labeling a wrong thing political or controversial and not talking about it within the Church does not make it any less wrong. And why wouldn't watchmen want to call wrong things wrong? Doing so then gives opportunity to share what God, in Christ, has done about wrong things.

March 14 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

The joy found in Luke 15 is the joy of repentance and restoration (15:7, 10, 24). When churches whitewash sin and teach only love and joy, they have neither. They have only superficial and

artificial happiness. When the Church forfeits the teaching of sin, they can no longer welcome sinners and seek the lost who need to be found. When the Church forfeits the teaching of sin, they will no longer share in the joy of angels and heaven.

March 21 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Paul calls his rather impressive pedigree "rubbish" (Philippians 3:8). It was not rubbish in and of itself. God used Paul's education and background to further His kingdom. But it was all rubbish compared to the "surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus" (3:8). Imagine being able to tell people that no matter what their background, health, physical or mental abilities they can have "surpassing worth." Now stop imagining! Go tell!

March 28 – Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

Jesus' journey during Holy Week from the triumphal entry to the torturous crucifixion really began in a fallopian tube. Jesus "made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant" (Philippians 2:7). That happened at Jesus' conception in the fallopian tube of Mary. Celebrated on Thursday, March 25, the Annunciation of our Lord marks this event. The king who came into Jerusalem on a donkey and the mocked king who left Jerusalem carrying a cross was formed in a womb as we were. The next time you hear someone devalue life in the womb, remind them of Jesus' journey.



Life News
monthly bulletin inserts

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

Truth and Consequences

by Diane E. Schroeder



Suddenly the truth hit my friend Joan. “I killed my baby.” Tears began to flow as she realized that the abortion she had 25 years ago removed not just a clump of cells, but resulted in the death of her daughter.

Theresa Burke, in her book, *Forbidden Grief*, states: “As a society, we don’t understand abortion. We debate it. We pass laws about it. We argue about it as a moral and political issue. But we don’t understand it as a life-changing experience.”

Here’s the truth:

- Abortion is a traumatic event.
- Abortion takes the life of an innocent human being.
- Abortion changes the role of mother from a child nurturer to a child destroyer.
- Abortion goes against the very fiber of womanhood—it is an unnatural choice.
- Abortion changes how a woman looks at herself, her relationships, and the world.
- Abortion is a major death experience that needs to be grieved.

We know that the consequences of abortion are devastating. In a 2004 study* of women who had abortions:

- 36 percent reported thoughts of suicide
- 26 percent experienced an increase in alcohol or drug usage
- 62 percent felt unable to forgive themselves
- 59 percent felt that part of themselves had died with the abortion

Here is another truth: Jesus died for ALL sins including the sin of abortion.

Whenever I speak to pastors, I speak to them about the need to address the issue of post abortion within their congregations. The statistics are overwhelming. With more than 50 million abortions since 1973, many people within our congregations have been affected either as a parent, grandparent, or friend. This truth needs to be proclaimed within our churches. An anonymous woman wrote LFL:

“Many years ago, when I was young and naïve, I made the horrible decision (not choice) to have an abortion. I have lived with ‘mourning and great weeping’ ever since. My abortion happened just after it became legalized. God is good. I know, because of what Jesus did, I have forgiveness. But there is still ‘weeping and mourning.’ It is just a consequence of my action. Please don’t be stingy with God’s grace.”



What should be the response of the Church?

- Pastors must preach about the truth and consequences of abortion—offering forgiveness to those who have made that choice.
- Pastors must not remain silent and let these women or men remain in their self-condemnation.
- Church members need to be taught to be compassionate, understanding that it is easy to stand on principles when you’re not the one faced with the life-altering consequences of a crisis pregnancy.

- Church members should be encouraged to accept and love these women and men as forgiven children of God—just like them.

What about you?

As Christians working in the pro-life arena, we must always be aware that the probability of speaking to someone who has the pain of a past abortion in their heart is about 25 percent.

Watch your language. Whenever you speak about the issue, offer compassion to women and men who have made a wrong choice. Don't say, "I don't know how anyone could do that." Instead say, "I know that most women don't want to have an abortion. We need to help them."

Listen to anyone who opens up to you.

Be someone they can trust.

Offer them forgiveness.

Abortion is a tremendous problem in our society. Our job as the Church is not just to speak out, witnessing to the value of life, but also to pick up the pieces of the lives of those wounded by an abortion decision, restoring them to a full relationship with their Savior, Jesus Christ.

What about my friend Joan?

Joan went through a Bible study where she learned that God still loved her in spite of her abortion. She was able to apply the biblical truths of God's forgiveness to her life and forgive herself. Now Joan is a leader in a local post-abortion ministry and helping other women and men again find the joy of knowing that God still loves them.

What a wonderful God we serve that He takes our mistakes, whatever they may be, and uses it to further His Kingdom. What a blessing it is for all of us to serve Him!

"I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins" Isaiah 43:25.

*(*Vincet M. Rue, Institute for Pregnancy Loss, with Priscilla K. Coleman, James J. Rue and David C. Reardon)*



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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(See page 17 – Limited time offer)