

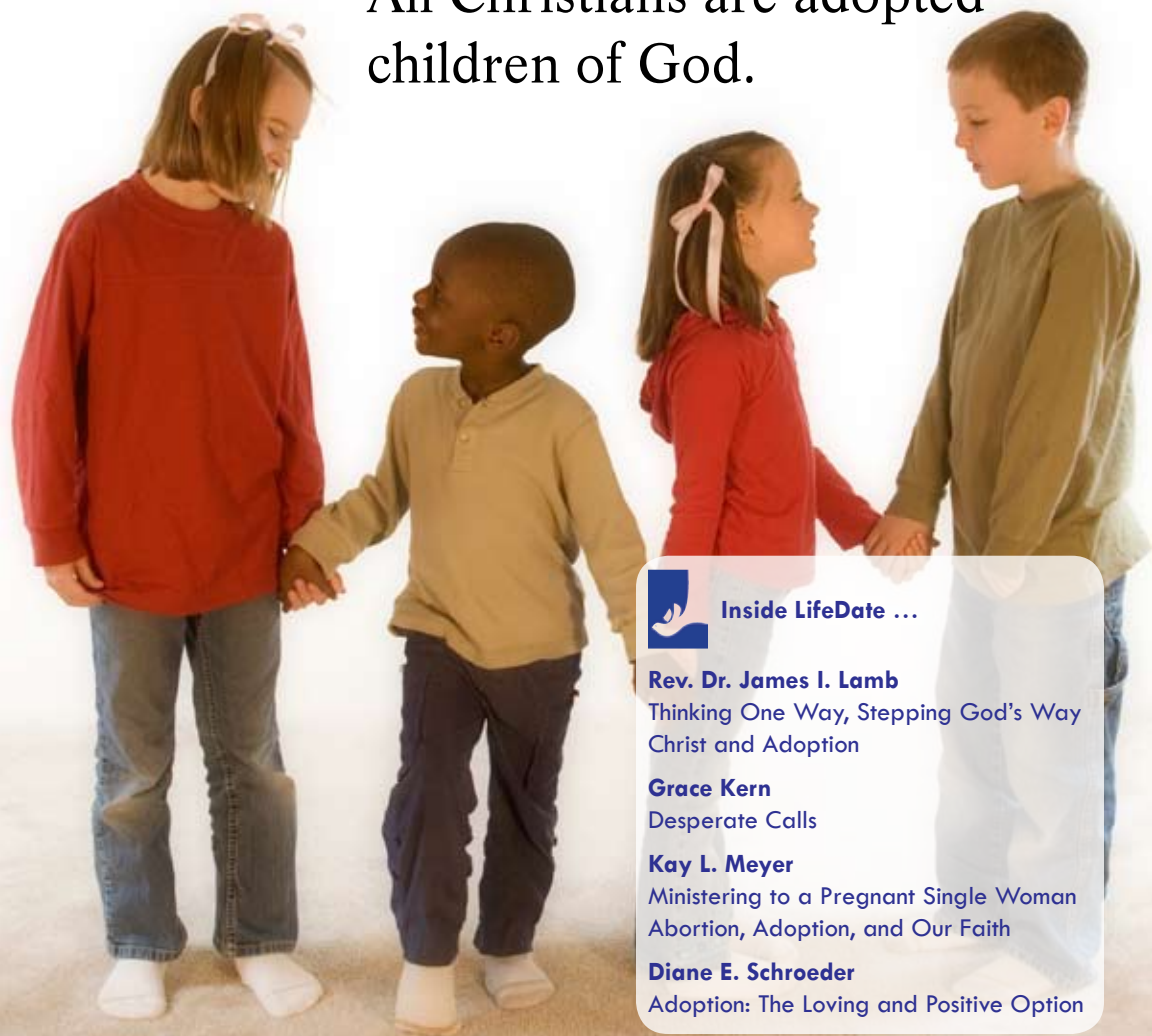
LifeDate

Fall 2009

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

Adopted in Christ

All Christians are adopted
children of God.



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Adoption: The Loving and Positive Option



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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Thinking One Way, Stepping God's Way

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb



I suppose when you read it, someone doing the “moonwalk” might come to mind. **“The mind of a man plans his ways, but the LORD directs his steps”** (Proverbs 16:9 NAS). You think you’re going one way and you’re really going God’s way!

I can’t “moonwalk,” but I think of me when I read this verse. Since fifth grade I wanted to be a doctor. I wanted to be like Dr. Tom Doolley who served the people of Laos. I read all his books. I made a plan in my mind—college, medical school, and serve people, maybe even in a foreign land. I made a plan and prayed that God would help me with my plan.

He didn’t. He did, however, direct my steps. He eventually revealed His plan for my life. I did become a doctor, but I find it a testimony to God’s humor that while my plan was to become an MD, He directed my steps to become a DM, Doctor of Ministry!

The focus of this *LifeDate* is adoption, especially in light of our adoption as God’s children in Christ. Most of the time we pro-life folks think of adoption as a loving option for that pregnant teen. We encourage her to make an adoption plan for her baby. Making such a plan requires courage and sacrifice. Her plans for her life may need to be set aside, but God can be trusted in such a situation to direct her steps and fulfill His plan for her life.

But there is another side of adoption as well. In my travels, I meet many adoptive parents. Usually they greet me with some-

thing affirming like, “We’re pro-life. We have adopted children.” Their stories often relate plans for having children, being fulfilled in ways where it was obvious that the Lord was directing their steps. Their plans were the normal plans for most couples, to conceive and bear a child. But the Lord of Life directs their steps to a child according to His plan. At the same time, He directs the steps of that child to them. He fulfills His plan for the couple through the child. He fulfills His plan for the child through the couple. You would think it would get a little confusing directing all those steps! But He’s God; that’s what He does.

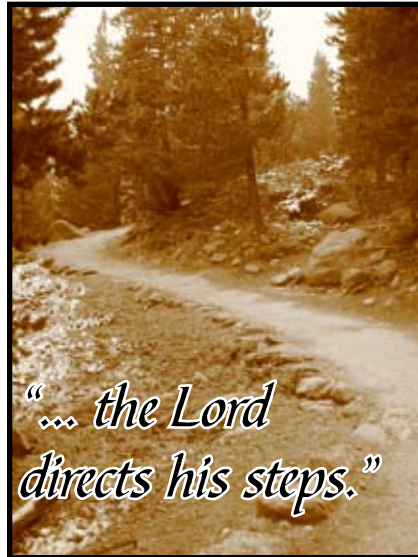
Infertility causes the plans of many people

to go astray. Sometimes it leads them to make use of a variety of assisted reproductive technologies. Such technologies seem to offer hope to couples to get their plans back on track. There is nothing wrong with placing hope in such technology as long as they do not go too far and result in hurting or harming human life.

Rachel’s demand, **“Give me children or I’ll die”** (Genesis 30:1), while an understandable reaction

to the pain of infertility, goes too far. It does not leave one open to God directing one’s steps. It is almost a “Help me with my plan or else” demand. Rachel did not seem open to God’s plan.

I cannot claim to fully understand the pain of an infertile couple. I pray that the Lord of Life will help them with their plans for having children. I also pray that such couples will be open to God’s direction and that their prayers will include petitions that God will direct their steps according to His plan. Who knows whose little steps God might be directing their way!



Ministering to a Pregnant Single Woman

by Kay L. Meyer



"Kay, I had an opportunity today to witness to a young, pregnant, single woman that I see several times a week at a local store near work," my husband, Tjaden (Chad), told me when he got home from work a few months ago. "Today instead of being behind the counter she was stocking shelves. I walked over to visit with her after I'd paid my bill and asked how she was doing."

She said softly, "I'd like to talk to you outside."

When we got outside she shared, "I wanted to tell you that I'm going to have a baby." My husband, knowing she was single asked, "How does your boyfriend feel about the pregnancy?" She

responded, "Well, we've been going together three years and even though he doesn't live in St. Louis I hope he'll be supportive. And, hopefully, we'll get married. But even if we don't, I want the baby."

She continued, "The only other people I've told besides my boyfriend are my parents. I was afraid they would be really upset. But they both cried when I told them. It looks like they will support me."

"I don't know why," she continued, "but when I saw you walk in I wanted to tell you about the baby. You're such a nice man [My husband said she wanted to say nice 'old' man, but she didn't] and you're always so friendly. Most people just walk in, pay for what they

have purchased and walk out. They barely talk to me. They certainly don't see me as a person, but you do."

My husband took the opportunity to ask about her faith. He learned she had no church background, but it was obvious that she believed God existed and was very open to learning more about Him. She asked Chad, "Are you a religious man?"

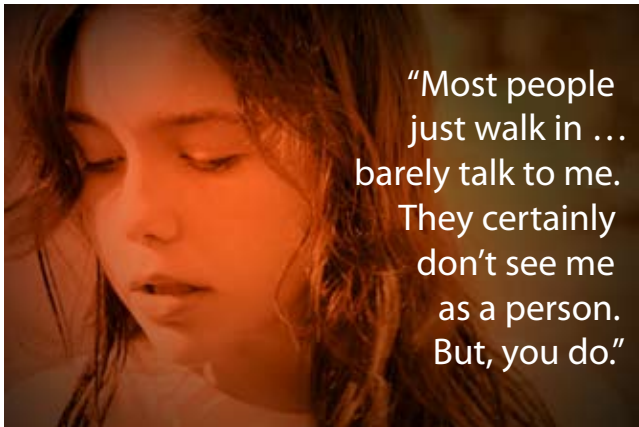
He responded, "Well, I'd like to say I am, but I'm also a sinner who needs God's forgiveness every day."

"How can you be a religious man and sin every day? I don't understand that," she responded.

He explained briefly what he meant

and told her he'd share more about the forgiveness the Lord offers us at another time. He encouraged her to look to the Lord for help during her pregnancy.

After my husband had shared this encounter with me we talk-

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a young woman with long, wavy brown hair, looking down with a somber expression. The image has a warm, orange-toned filter.

"Most people just walk in ... barely talk to me. They certainly don't see me as a person. But, you do."

ed about ways we might continue to work with her and help her. I suggested, "Why don't we give her a gift for the baby and one for her too." During the next few weeks my husband visited with her a few more times. On one of those visits he learned her boyfriend was not interested in continuing their relationship. She was upset about this, but still happy about the baby. Another time he saw her she told him, "I had an ultra sound. It's a boy!"

Later, my husband and I wrapped a gift for the baby, and a gift for the woman (a *GOD'S WORD for Life* Bible). I also assembled a list of names, telephone numbers, and web sites of agencies that offer assistance to women with unplanned pregnancies in our area and

attached a business card.

She was really excited about the gifts and asked, "Why do you and your wife care about me?"

Chad continues to encourage her to find a church near her home and to read the Bible. We both keep her in prayer. Would you pray for her too?

If this young woman visits your church, how will you welcome her? After my husband shared the story about his encounter with this woman, he told me a little more about her. "Kay, she has three hair colors—one is purple. She has tattoos on both wrists, and several pierced nose rings. Although she has been a partyer in the past, she told me that now that she is pregnant she has stopped drinking and partying. She really wants to get her life together."

Have you ever seen someone at *your* church and shied away from speaking to that person and wondered, "Why are *they* at *my* church?" Churches are places for us to worship the Lord and are for all people. I'm sure the prostitute Jesus befriended may not have looked like everyone else. The rich, poor, middle class, black, white, and yes, even those who have three hair colors and tattoos are welcome in God's house. My encouragement is to be friendly and welcoming to everyone who attends.

One simple way you can open up opportunities to share your faith and talk about the life issues is by being friendly with those you meet in your daily life. You never know what doors the Lord will open and how He will use you!

When opportunities like this one occur, it would be helpful if LFL members prepared a list of resources that could be shared with those who need them. Let your pastor, church leaders, and members of your congregation know the list is available. You can help touch lives, and save lives, through your words of encouragement and a focus on sharing the Word of Life (John 1:4).

Devotional and Bible study help



Not Alone – A devotion booklet, by Linda Bartlett, for single mothers.
Item 901B. **\$2.00 ea.**



Biblical Manhood
– To be truly a man, biblically, we must commit ourselves with the will and the strength that only God can give us—to the pursuit of godliness. This is biblical manhood.

By Dr. Francis Monseth.
Item 304B. **\$2.00 ea.**

Here's why taking a stand For Life matters:

In the United States, 3,287 unborn babies are killed through abortion every day.

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

Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute.



Christ and Adoption

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb



God only has one “natural” child. He adopted all the rest.

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

We were neither conceived nor born as God’s children. We were “illegitimate” children conceived and born in sin. We were children of slavery, “held captive under the law” (3:23) and “enslaved to the elemental principles of the world” (4:3). We were doomed to die as such children.

But God made an adoption plan for us. Even before time began, this loving plan of adoption was in place. **“He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ according to the purpose of his will”** (Ephesians 1:4-5). Then when everything was just right, when “the fullness of time had come,” the plan unfolded.

It was a loving plan. **“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him”** (1 John 4:9). Out of love, God wanted what was best for us; so He sent the best for us, His only Son.

It was a sacrificial plan. **“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God”** (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus humbled Himself to be born under the law and to be **“obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross”** (Philippians 2:8).

It was an expensive plan. **“You were bought with a price”** (1 Corinthians 6:20). Blood was required. Suffering and forsakenness also went into the purchase price of redeeming those “who were under the law.”

It was a glorious plan. **“So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God”** (Galatians 4:7). Adopted sons are no different than sons. They have

an inheritance coming, eternal life with the Father. That’s why “sons” is used here and not “children.” In those days sons received the inheritance. Paul makes the point that those who God adopts—men, women,

boys and girls—all have the full right of sons, all have eternity waiting.

Christians and Adoption

Adoption is not always seen in a good light. Pregnant teens who are nervously but seriously considering abortion become very adamant when adoption is mentioned. “Oh, I could never give my baby up for adoption!” Even well meaning Christians may contribute to the problem. “What mother would give away her baby?” The perception is that adoption is abandonment, a bad choice that is not very loving.

There is a need to shed some good light on adoption. Perhaps looking at it in the light of



our adoption in Christ will help.

Making a Plan

Making a plan for placing a child in the loving arms of adoptive parents is not easy, but it is far from abandonment. Often times it is best for all involved. These days, a variety of plans can be made. Adoptions can be as open or as closed as the mother may desire. Even before the child is born, plans can be made for baptism, selecting Christian parents, and setting up the degree of openness desired. Making an adoption plan is not “giving a baby up.” It’s giving a baby the best future possible for him or her.

A Loving Plan

True love, as demonstrated by God in Christ, considers what is best for another before considering what is best for self. Making an adoption plan for a baby is an act of great love. Certainly parenting may be a loving option, especially if there is maturity and levels of support. But love asks what is best for the baby. Often the loving choice of an adoption plan ends up being best for all involved.

A Sacrificial Plan

Lovingly putting others first led Jesus to the great and ultimate sacrifice. Making an adoption plan is difficult emotionally. It requires sacrifice. Other plans may have to be put on hold for awhile as plans are made for a new life and a new future. But just as the sacrifice of Christ ultimately resulted in much good, so the sacrifice of adoption can result in much good. A life is saved, new life is given, a family is found for a child, and the birth

mother can know, that in serving her child and sacrificing for what is best for that child, she is serving Christ. She can move forward in hope and joy.

An Expensive Plan

Practically speaking, adoption can be very expensive these days. Parents wanting to adopt sometimes find such expenses prohibitive. This is where the body of Christ can help. Instead of just promoting adoption as a loving and life giving option, congregations can make efforts to help fund couples seeking to adopt. They can support agencies that assist in the adoption planning and process. We were worth it to God! Helping birth moms make an adoption plan and helping couples adopt is worth it as well!

A Glorious Plan

The desired outcome of God’s adoption plan for us is heaven. That is the ultimate concern for the Christian as well. When a



child is conceived, whatever the circumstances, a Christian’s first concern is for that child’s salvation. Subsequent decisions and plans need always to bear this in mind. Again, an adoption plan gives opportunity to place a child in an environment that will nurture and uphold that child’s eternal welfare.

There are many perspectives from which to view adoption. Perhaps we Christians will find needed strength and encouragement and hope when we view it through our adoption by God in Christ. Apart from Christ, all His children are adopted. He must know something about it!

Desperate Calls

by Grace Kern

www.word-of-hope.org



They call our hotline (888-217-8679) desperately looking for help. "My friend told me to call you before I go for an abortion. Can you help? I am really scared of what my parents will say."

We receive a few hundred calls a month; one-third are pregnancy related, and many are from teenagers. When faced with an unplanned pregnancy, teens need to realize the decisions they make are permanent and will affect them for the rest of their lives. Abortion may seem like the only choice, and the easiest way out, but abortion is permanent. There is no bringing back a dead baby.

Rachel (not her real name) was 16 when she became pregnant. Later, she wrote this letter from a correctional facility:

Dear Grace,

My dad is a Pastor and we are a very religious family. When I became pregnant I didn't want to disappoint my parents or bring shame to our family. I love and care about them so much. Instead, I went to my school counselor. He was very sympathetic and understanding. He said there was no need to worry my family about my pregnancy. He also explained how hard having a child would be on me and that I wouldn't be able to do what I wanted to do at school. I was an A student and involved in basketball, hoping to get a scholarship for college. He said that the child would suffer because I was much too young to be a parent. He said the best thing for me to



do was to abort the fetus so no one would be hurt. There was no suggestion of talking to my parents, or about carrying the baby to term, or even to consider adoption.

I felt as though I had no other choice. I did not care about the boy I was with. I really didn't even know him very well. It was my first time having sex and never thought I could get pregnant. I felt so confused about having an abortion, but I'd think back to what the school counselor had told me, and it seemed he was right. I just didn't want anyone to know what I did. Now, I still can't believe what I did. I know God must be angry with me because I have done a horrible thing. When I hear that people get the death sentence for murder

I think I should be right in line with them getting the same punishment. I sit here in my cell wondering how this all happened. I have one more year here but in my heart I know I deserve more. Grace can you help me? Someone said

you help people like me. Will you write to me?

Thanks, Rachel

For five years after the abortion, Rachel was on a destructive path as her parents watched helplessly not knowing what was wrong with her or how to help. Rachel's traumatic reaction to her abortion experience included suicide attempts, alcoholism, drugs, and finally an arrest and conviction for drug dealing.

Sadly, Rachel's story is not unique. In the U.S., one out of every three abortion patients is a teenager—for whom the possibility of developing psychological and emotional problems after an abortion is substantially higher than for more mature women. Teens

are more likely to experience intense feelings of guilt, depression, and isolation. This major, traumatic, experience occurs at a time when their defense mechanisms are not fully developed, which leaves them more susceptible to events and circumstances that can profoundly damage their view of the world, other people, and themselves.

In addition, a secret abortion disrupts family relationships. To protect their secret, teenagers try to hide feelings of depression, sadness, and even thoughts of suicide that might otherwise alert their parents to the problem. If they cannot repress these feelings, they may be disguised with more lies or transformed into anger and rebellion. This need for secrecy accentuates their feelings of shame and will often lead to withdrawal from family and into drugs, alcohol, and destructive relationships.

Kept in the dark, with no way to understand their child's disturbed behavior, parents are likely to become increasingly frustrated. In turn, parents are likely to fuel the distrust or rebellious nature of the teen because they "simply don't understand" what he or she is going through.

Along with the facts about abstinence, parenting, adoption, and abortion, it is important for parents to talk with their teens before a crisis. Teens need to know there is nothing they could ever do that could not be handled with God's help.

It is also important to know how your child's school handles situations like this as some school counselors and other officials may direct teens into an unwanted abortion.

Finally, our young people need to clearly hear the Gospel preached with passion. They know that God has claimed them in Christ, who loved them enough to suffer and die on the cross, so that they may have eternal life.

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"
Romans 8:1.

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**

Chaos Rules ... Or Does It?

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



The sun has gone to bed. So should I. But, I'm committed to writing this article ... and I'm not a quitter. The clock is ticking. My mind wanders. I tap at the keyboard, then delete. There is so much to write, yet my fingers are paralyzed.

It's not just my fingers that feel paralyzed. I feel paralyzed. Strange this is! The Spirit has never rested since He opened my eyes to the holocaust of abortion. He has constantly nudged me to speak up! Get involved! Lend a hand! Offer a shoulder! Make a difference while there is light of day! Like many of you, I heard the whispers: "She's a bit too intense." "Why doesn't she lighten up?"

I remember the woman who, most kindly, said, "Thank you for your message about abortion, but my children are all grown now and this issue really doesn't affect me." My emotion wanted to scream, but my better judgment seized the moment. I sighed, smiled, then tried to explain. We LFLers warned about the slippery slope to euthanasia—and so much more.

Well, it's so "much more" later ... And, here we are, mired in a culture that mourns a Lutheran abortionist, but cannot cry for the beating hearts he stopped; where children are

thoroughly educated in sex, but more at risk than ever before by an epidemic of diseases, broken hearts, and sexual addiction; where "prairie folk" legalized same-sex marriage and label the behavioral and risky choice a "civil rights issue"; where the United Nations is poised to usurp the rights of American parents; where professional politicians believe health care may be too expensive for certain "classes" of people and students of Dr. Kevorkian wait around the corner to "save the economy"; where self-gratification and indulgence is nurtured at the expense of others.

Narcissism rules and chaos reigns.

Or, does it?

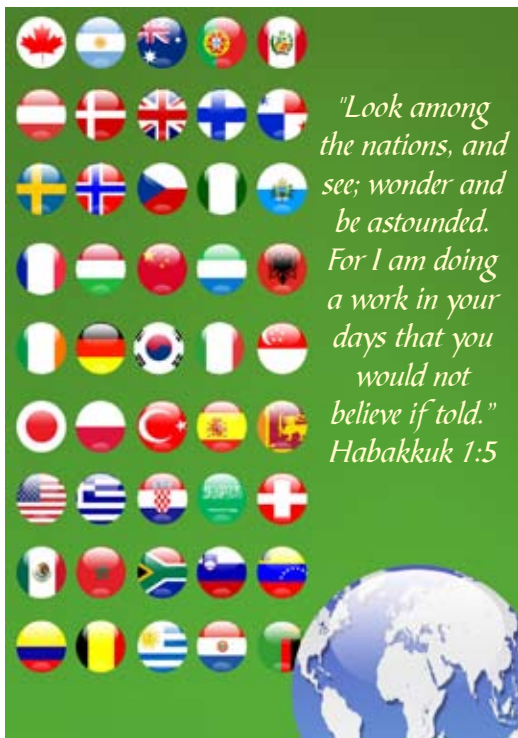
"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?" asks God of Job. **"Tell me, if you have understanding"** (Job 38:4).

God, the creator of the universe, has never and will never relinquish control. It would be contrary to His very nature.

Life certainly seemed out of control when my husband, mother-in-law, and I

were held captive on board a plane for three hours while the maintenance crew serviced the engine. How surprising to me that the magazine I happened to bring revealed exciting evidence of order and truth at work. This evidence serves as a reminder to you and me that God—not chaos—reigns.

John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge, authors of the book *God Is Back*, say Christianity is poised to do well—and better than Islam—in the 21st century. For example, "The Qur'an can't be translated into any other



language. So most people who Muslims are converting do not understand a word of what they are taught to recite ...” Contrast that with the fact that God’s Word, the Bible, is published in 95 percent of the languages of the world.

In Europe, religious questions are back in the culture, in part, because of the rise of Islam and its repercussions. Now, let me ask. Have you noticed the growing number of bestsellers by atheists during the past several years? Mickelthwait observes, “You do not suddenly wake up in a panic about God being bad or terrible if you think you’ve already won the argument. If you went back 10 or 20 years, the idea that Richard Dawkins or Christopher Hitchens could write a bestseller on the subject would have seemed odd, because—certainly in Europe—most of the educated elites would have assumed God was disappearing anyway, so what’s the worry?” (*WORLD, June 20, 2009* “Q & A by Marvin Olasky”)

Does chaos reign?

“The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, ‘Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.’ He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision” (Psalm 2:2-4).

“God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne” (Psalm 47:8).

It may appear that the culture has lost its moral footing. We may fear the pagan culture is ready to absorb us. We may feel paralyzed and powerless to engage. But while God is doing His work, there is something we can do too. We can live. We can live as men and women eager to glorify God while He transforms the culture. God gives us a model for affecting the lives of others. It follows the order of creation and is gender-specific. You can find that model in Titus 2:1-8. A young pastor named Titus and his congregation used this model to affect the lives of others—one man, one woman, one child, one family, one

neighbor, one community at a time. They mentored generations of hope.

Narcissism may seem to rule. It may appear that our world is spinning out of control. But, did you notice that my fingers aren’t paralyzed anymore? The darkness overpowered me for awhile last night ... but the Lord’s compassions are new every morning! (Lamentations 3:22-23) Because of His great love, you and I are not consumed! Rather, we are reenergized with hope.

Hope is visible. A young mother of three recently hosted a Titus 2 Retreat in her home. Guests were married and single; moms of young children and adult children. Some were practicing medicine, law, or writing their thesis; others were busy at home or involved with missions. Each one was already living counterculture; therefore, ready to come together for encouragement, but also discuss “hot button” issues and practice contrasting the world with God’s Word.

Hope has no boundaries. A woman I’ve never met e-mailed, asking, “Please! Would you come to Houston?” She had visited www.titus2-4life.org many times and ordered multiple resources from LFL. “I’m not Lutheran,” she explained, “but, together with my husband, we have a ministry to the Hispanic community in the inner city. We have Bible studies with men and women who are single or married with families ... These people are hungry to know how to live as men and women ... for the sake of generations to come!” This woman is joining others in my home this fall for a Titus 2 Training Retreat.

Narcissism does not rule. Chaos does not reign.

We may be waiting for the blessed hope: Jesus Christ. But, while we wait, we live as men and women in this present age eager to glorify God and mentor generations of hope!



Today is the Day!

by Janette Clausen, LBSW
(Lutheran Family Services
of Iowa, www.lfsiowa.org)



Imagine a family whose daily routine included eating in three to four shifts each meal, making ten dentist appointments for one day, counting beyond 25 children's heads for every outing, going to four different schools and even more buses, and cooking in bulk on a daily basis. Picture each family member voting on whether "one more" should join the family and more than 30 times over the past 30 years, that vote has been a resounding YES.

The word "normal" to any of the members of the Bruce and Terri Lippert family is re-

finding his way to the bathroom and be caught playing in the toilet. Every day, there are huge smiles and hugs.

I was blessed enough to witness multiple celebrations of the child the Lipperts eagerly adopted through Lutheran Family Service of Iowa. Before he was born, doctors warned he may not live more than hours after birth, that he could need immediate life-saving procedures. God blessed the world with a remarkable baby who indeed had profound brain abnormalities, and may never be "normal," but certainly was thriving and was absolutely beautiful. Days later, there was the news that he would be a "vegetable." In the next months, the Lipperts bragged and celebrated every time he showed response to touch, smell, and sound. Then he could maneuver himself, hold



ally meaningless. The majority of the family members have what "normal" people usually call *disabilities*, *special needs*, or are *medically fragile*. Big medical words that scare "normal" folks, feeding tubes, trachs, special wheel chairs, or mental retardation, it is all "normal" to the Lippert family.

Each of the Lippert children has significant expectations on their shoulders—that is, to become all they can be. **"Today is the Day"** is the motto that Terri repeats often, meaning what happens today will be more than yesterday, and a miracle is waiting within each child. Sometimes that miracle is celebrating the tenth birthday of a child whom doctors said would not live beyond days after birth. Other times, the miracle the family celebrates is the child that doctors said would never walk

his head. He now smiles, makes his opinion known, and is quite an active toddler. "Normal"? Anyone in his family will quickly tell you he is way ahead of normal.

Bruce and Terri teach their children that any "disability" is never an excuse for being less than excellent. As a matter of fact, they believe true disability really means believing that only persons of real value have a certain IQ or physical abilities like every "normal" person.

To the Lipperts, true disability is when a person forgets "God does not make junk." Every single day is an opportunity for each person to meet their full potential, and each person is gift from God—braces, tubes, wheel-chairs, trachs, catheters, or whatever may just be part of that package.

So where does such a family get their energy? Why do they take so many children with special needs?

Bruce and Terri feel insulted when someone is amazed they can “love these children anyway.” They love their children *because* of exactly who they each are, and expect one thing of them—to be all they can be today. There seems to be automatic instillation in the children of their unconditional love—as if they don’t even have to work at it. The lavish and unconditional love is what motivates the children to reach their potential. They have kept taking more children in through foster care and adoption because God kept opening the door for them to do so. Actually, Terri is very anxious for another child because she knows it is her calling, she knows she can make a difference, and laughably, she is rather bored at times!

How do they do it? I have watched as the children come home from school in intervals. Their faces are smiling and happy to be home. After a hug and toss of the back packs, the children who can talk excitedly share about their day as the others patiently listen. They cuddle in by mom or dad, then get up to go off for a snack, to play, or hang out contentedly in the same room while we visit. I couldn’t have taken notes on any procedural tips—I was too busy wondering why I haven’t done that well with my “normal” kids when they come home. I hadn’t a clue what I would find for my own family dinner that evening when I got home, but Terri had meal plans for the whole week, every week (and groceries in the house to pull it off!) The only requirement I am aware of is a good sense of humor. For example, a favorite line in the home is “who is missing?” and oftentimes one person will say “I am!” I don’t know how they do it, but they sure do it well.

Why do they do it? Bruce and Terri weather plenty assumptions from the outside about that. They’ve heard every comment, ranging from curiosity to insensitive accusations. Be-

ing “in it for the money” is one of the more common. Bruce and Terri know that misunderstandings come from a lack of knowledge, and that many people don’t know because they don’t ask, they assume.

Patiently, Bruce and Terri take on the silent yet screaming ignorance around them. They don’t know how much it costs to love a child because they refuse to put a dollar amount on any child. They just know it is priceless. They work two jobs and have each of the children on their family health plan. They refuse to deal with SSI, Medicaid, or state subsidies. Terri calls it all a useless pain, a complete dry sponge for her time of which she would rather be spending with her children. They would, however, like to pay a few people out there to just care, to understand, and to be sensitive.

Money is budgeted for a family evening out here or there, the same expenses we all have, and an annual vacation. Lipperts don’t need anything big and fancy—they like practical and efficient. They live life simply. Getting life insurance policies on family members who have short life expectancies is outrageous, so Bruce and Terri quietly, consistently, save for funerals instead. When God takes one of the children home to heaven, they lovingly plan a personal and touching funeral that is meaningful to every family member left to go on improving each day. They each grieve deeply, rejoice, and heal. They move on because they each know God has a plan for them.

Knowing *God does not make junk* means there is no disability in the Lippert family. But there are plenty of creatively enabled members.

Today is the Day one of them may reach a new milestone far beyond “normal” expectations. Each family member is already far beyond “normal” because they know God loves them *because* of who they are.



Abortion, Adoption, and Our Faith

by Kay L. Meyer



Arriving at the early morning breakfast sponsored by a Christian adoption agency, I introduced myself to those at my table and began a conversation with a father and son on my left. The son, I quickly learned, had adopted his two children through the agency sponsoring the breakfast.

"How old are your children?" I asked?

"Five years and six months. Want to see their pictures?"

The man continued, "I am so thankful that the birth mothers of my two boys didn't have an abortion. I often think about them and how hard a decision this must have been. I wrote each of them a letter. I want them to know how thankful we are that they loved the boys enough to make the difficult decision to give birth and then give them up for adoption. We love the boys so much! They are a precious gift from God. If I had known in advance the joy I would experience from being a father, I wouldn't have been so miserable during the many years we didn't have children."

Some years ago I was the Spiritual Life Director for a maternity home and worked with single young women who were pregnant. Some of them kept their babies, but many released them for adoption. Some of the following is taken from my interaction with the young women and their families.

A Young Pregnant Woman

"I'm so scared. I found out I was pregnant a few weeks ago. I'm still trying to get up the nerve to tell my father and stepmother. I know they'll be angry. I never thought this would happen to me. Last week I told my boyfriend Todd. Now he's avoiding me."

"I've thought about my alternatives. I could keep the baby and raise it myself, have an abortion, or put the baby up for adoption. I didn't grow up attending church very often, but last week I attended the congregation where I used to attend vacation Bible school. I sat in the last pew and tried to listen to the pastor's sermon. Instead I found myself thinking about what it would be like to have an abortion. How would I feel afterward? If I have the abortion, will I always wonder what the baby would have looked like?"

"I believe in God. I believe having an abortion is wrong. But, I can't see any other solution. Will God ever forgive me if I have an abortion? Yesterday, I made an appointment at a pregnancy resource center. The woman told me they can help me, maybe even find me a place to stay if I decide to keep the baby or give it up for adoption."

A Couple Who Want to Adopt

"Dad, the woman at the adoption agency said it might a long time before we receive a baby through the adoption process. Did you know that the birth mother gets to help select the couple who adopt her child? ... The adoption agency case worker told us they have a lot of couples on their waiting list."

"She also told us that many young mothers prefer abortions. Can you believe it! They prefer abortions. They see it as the easy way out of a difficult situation. Oh, dad, let's pray that God would lead someone who is thinking about having an abortion to change her mind and decide to give the baby up for adoption."

Carrie Gives Her Son Up for Adoption

I remember vividly the first woman I worked with who gave up her newborn after his birth. She would attend the weekly Bible study and talk about him. She was only 16 years old, and knew adoption was the correct thing for her to do. Even though she had given him up, he was still her son. She talked about how she hoped the adoptive parents would love him and be great parents. She had tried to select parents who had some of the same interest she did. She told us the adoptive parents liked the outdoors just like she did. She cried often during those days. It hurt her to give him up. She went through real anguish and pain.

Sharing Christ with Women

My favorite part of the week at the maternity home was the weekly Bible study. The women at the maternity home weren't afraid to ask questions about God and the Bible. Often, those questions allowed me to have a teachable moment. At one of those Bible studies the residents studied guilt and forgiveness. During the study we reviewed the story of David and Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 11. They were surprised to learn that David had sexual relations with a married woman, then after he learned she was to have his baby, had her husband sent into battle so he would be killed.

And they were amazed to learn that the Bible referred to David as "a man after God's own heart." They asked, "How can this be? How can David sin like that and still be called 'a man after God's own heart?'" As they continued to study God's Word they learned that David experienced guilt over his sin and that it

affected him physically, spiritually, and emotionally (Psalm 51:2-5, 10-12; 32:2-4). Finally, guilt-ridden, David confessed his sin to God (Psalm 51:2-10) and God forgave him. This story helped the residents understand God's love for them. They began to comprehend the forgiveness available for them through Christ. Following this lesson, the residents talked about their sins, guilt about their past sins, and then wrote a personal prayer asking God to forgive their sins and remove their guilt.

What About You?

Maybe you've had an abortion and don't



think that God can ever forgive you. You're wrong. Jesus suffered on the cross for ALL your sins and all MY sins. Pray to the Lord and ask for His forgiveness (Col. 2:13).

Are you pregnant? Maybe you are struggling with a decision about what to do. Remember there is hope and help! Abortion is not the easy solution. Choose life for your baby. God will walk with you. He can bring Christian friends to support you. But, you need to reach out for help. Call and let someone know you

need assistance. There are 800 numbers and web sites that promote maternity homes and pregnancy resource services throughout the United States. They include optionline.org and www.HeartbeatInternational.org. You can also call Word of Hope at 888-217-8679. And remember LFL is here to serve and help too.

Prayer Request: Lowell Highby, LFL Director of Communications, is in the process of adopting two Russian orphans, Alex and Tamila. Please keep them all in your prayers.

Adoption Option Resources from Lutherans For Life

BOOKLETS

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

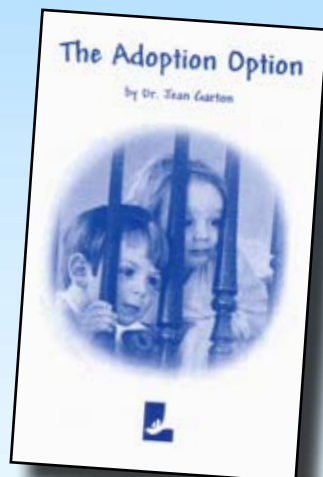
Item 503B.

\$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 500BI. \$0.07 ea.

November is
National Adoption
Month!



Teaching For Life®

Teaching For Life is a unique, Gospel-centered, positive way to help Lutheran school teachers apply God's Word to the life issues!

Teaching For Life

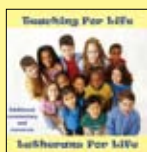
integrates nine key pro-life concepts—one for each month of the school year—by giving ideas on how to integrate them into religion, math, social studies, language arts, and more.

Teaching For Life

makes it as easy as possible for the teacher to use!

The entire **Teaching For Life** package includes 45 lessons for five grade levels (PK-K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8). It comes in a sturdy 8.25" x 11" full color tri-fold format, providing the teacher with all that is needed to teach a key life concept each month in a variety of ways.

Each **Teaching For Life** package includes a CD which provides additional resources, commentary, and teaching tools.



Teaching For Life

was previewed at the 2008 LEA Conference. The response was overwhelmingly positive!

**Consider purchasing
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Lesson Plans and CD

Grades PK-K. Item 720C. \$49.99 ea.

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Grades 3-4. Item 723C. \$49.99 ea.

Grades 5-6. Item 725C. \$49.99 ea.

Grades 7-8. Item 727C. \$49.99 ea.

Complete **Teaching For Life** package of 45 lesson plans and CD for all grade levels: **Item 729C. \$199.99 ea.**

TFL Themes by Unit (Nine Units/Grade Level):

Unit 1: For Life from the Beginning of Time:
The Importance of a Six-Day Creation.

Unit 2: For Life Because God Is—
The Trinitarian Value of Human Life.

Unit 3: For Life from the Very Beginning of Life.

Unit 4: For Life in the Womb.

Unit 5: For Chaste and Decent Lives.

Unit 6: For Life and Loving Them Both.

Unit 7: For Life and Healing Broken Hearts.

Unit 8: For Life When Life Isn't Good.

Unit 9: For Life at Life's End.

Select Comfort – Religion and the Dying

by Chuck Colson



According to a new study, terminally ill cancer patients who “drew comfort from religion” don’t want to die if they don’t have to. Well, no surprise. But, says the *Times*, they’re less eager to die than people who don’t draw “comfort from religion.”

Well that’s interesting, perhaps, but there is a more important as well as more troubling aspect to the story that’s going unnoticed.

The study appears in the most recent issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Researchers from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston used questionnaires and interviews “to assess the level of reliance on religious faith for comfort” of 345 terminally ill patients.

The “vast majority” of the patients—some 90 percent of those who were religious and 97 percent of those who were not—did not want “heroic measures,” such as mechanical ventilators or CPR, to be used in their cases.

Based on that seven percentage-point difference the *New York Times* proclaimed “Religious Belief Linked to Desire for Aggressive Treatment in Terminal Patients.” Please.

Do a little more math and you will realize that sweeping generalizations like “far more likely to seek aggressive, life-prolonging care” are based on the responses of approximately 25 people.

The researchers acknowledged that the study didn’t explore why this small handful

of religious patients sought “extensive end-of-life care.” That didn’t stop them from speculating anyway. One of the study’s authors disabused *Times*’ readers of the idea that “spiritual patients are more likely to say their lives are in God’s hands.”

Instead, she told the *Times*, “to religious people, life is sacred and sanctified ... they feel it’s their duty and obligation to stay alive as long as possible.”

That has it backward. If 90 percent of the religious people in the study refused heroic measures, then it’s more accurate to say that they don’t feel such an obligation—possibly because they believe that their lives are in God’s hands.



If all that was going on here was yet another mischaracterization of the faithful, it wouldn’t matter. But the *Times* let its readers know why they should care: cost.

The *Times* noted that Medicare “spends about one-third of its

budget on people who are in the last year of life, and much of that on patients at the very end of life.” The study noted that the religious patients “were less likely to have completed advance medical directives, such as a living will or do-not-resuscitate order.”

Anything, including religious belief, that might motivate people to seek “aggressive treatment” toward the end of life, costs money. Ominously, Wesley J. Smith has documented the “growing utilitarian emphasis in medicine,” in which saving money increasingly takes precedence over “doing right by suffering patients.”

Little wonder, then, that what amounts to a statistical blip becomes the stuff of head-

lines. Religion can be a problem if it makes people want to stay alive longer. As we nationalize healthcare, as Smith warns, the sick and infirm will soon be told they should do the patriotic thing: go quietly.

(From *BreakPoint*, March 20, 2009, reprinted with permission of Prison Fellowship, www.breakpoint.org.)

Life Quotes on Life's End

"We can face the end of life with confidence because Jesus Christ has defeated the enemy of death. For the believer in Christ, the Savior of the world, it is death with a difference. The cross promises what no science or medicine can: immortality ... (2 Timothy 1:10) ... Through the cross and Christ's resurrection comes new life, eternal life, life with Christ without end.



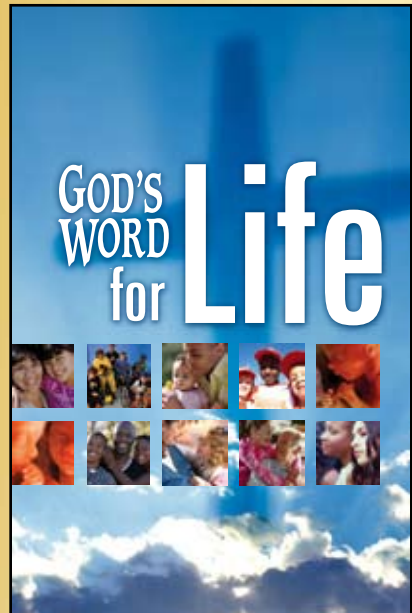
"Life is not ours to give nor is it ours to take. We leave our lives in the hands of the One who has the power to lay down His life and to take it up again.

"This calls us to make decisions that have as their aim the care of life and not the taking of life.

"Indeed the cross of Jesus Christ makes the difference in facing and living through our end-of-life issues. Thanks be to God!"

Rev. Dr. Eugene Boe, Academic Dean, Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology, Lutheran Brethren Seminary

Changing Hearts and Minds!



www.lutheransforlife.org/gwfl.htm

Bringing Good News to Life—2009 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.



\$100,000 for Renewal For Life

See page 24 for more on Renewal For Life!

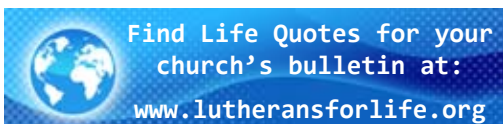
\$100,000 for Special Projects

- Expand *Teaching For Life* to Sunday school, Confirmation, and VBS.
- DVD series for congregational use
- More short YouTube™ videos

\$100,000 for Capital Improvements

"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.



President Obama Tells NIH to Adopt Embryonic Stem Cell Research Rules

President Barack Obama on July 30 directed the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to officially adopt its proposed rules to implement his decision to force taxpayers to pay for embryonic stem cell research. Obama reversed protections that prevented the funding of new research destroying human life.

President Bush had kept protections in place because new embryonic stem cell research requires the destruction of unborn children to obtain their stem cells.

The research has yet to help a single patient, unlike adult stem cell research which has helped patients with more than 100 diseases and medical conditions and which Bush supported with hundreds of millions in federal funding.

Obama's decision to force funding required the NIH to adopt rules to implement it.

The NIH rules received significant pro-life criticism when the agency released them in July and because the Obama administration ignored the majority of public comments opposing embryonic stem cell research.

Though the NIH received more than 48,000 public comments on the proposed guidelines, with many coming from pro-life advocates opposed to having their money used to destroy life for failed experiments, NIH implemented Obama's directive.

The NIH rules say fertility clinics need only provide couples with the options available at that clinic, which likely do not include the possibility of adopting the human embryo to a couple wanting to allow the baby to grow to birth.

The guidelines also suggest that *in vitro* fertilization doctors and human embryonic stem cell research scientists "should be" different people, but there is no requirement.

That could result in the purposeful creation and destruction of human life rather than merely using "leftover" human embryos.

The NIH guidelines also say the NIH plans to allow federal funding on embryonic stem cell lines created prior to July 7, 2009 even though some of those lines were created under circumstances that would not satisfy the new NIH requirements.

Those guidelines will be waived "if scientists can prove they met the spirit of the new ethics standards," according to an AP report. As a result, all lines are expected to receive taxpayer funding even if they were created under more dubious ethical circumstances.

The guidelines also divert funds away from promising adult stem cell research.

(LifeNews.com, excerpts, 7/31/09)

2009 State Conference Update

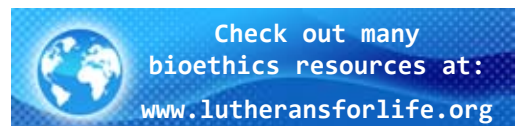
LFL of Kansas will sponsor a day-long Life Issues Conference on Saturday, October 24, from 8:00 am to 4:00 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church, 20th and Main, Hays.



The conference will feature Dr. Robert Weise from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, speaking on biotechnologies (stem cell research, cloning, genetic engineering and assisted reproductive technologies). There will also be workshops, table displays featuring Lutherans For Life, and pro-life organizations in the area, and a lunch.

Cost: \$20 per person; \$15 for college students.

For more information, contact Jeanne Mackay at jmackay3@kc.rr.com or 913-991-3350.



20,000 people have staged a pro-life march in the African country of Cameroon. The march was organized in opposition to the Maputo protocol, which seeks to force all 53-member states of the African Union to legalize abortion. A petition against abortion, signed by 30,000 people, was presented to the government. Samuel Kleda, the coadjutor Catholic archbishop of Douala, said, “[W]e cannot pretend to defend women by proposing that they have an abortion and use contraception, which threatens their dignity and the nuclear family. No reason can be used to justify abortion or infanticide.” (*LifeSiteNews.com*, 7/17)

A new study from England suggests that women who have had more than one abortion are more likely to be involved in abusive relationships. The study, published in the *The Obstetrician and Gynaecologist* medical journal, follows similar findings published in March. Jason Waugh, the journal’s editor, said: “These findings highlight the need for health professionals to be aware of, and sensitive to, the possibility of violence in the lives of women seeking abortion.” (*LifeSiteNews.com*, 7/17)

The number of people aged over 65 is on course to overtake the number of infants for the first time in history, a study has found. The trend is most prevalent in the developed world and is now rapidly gaining pace in the developing world. Richard Suzman, from the National Institute of Ageing in Maryland, which commissioned the new study by the US Census Bureau, said: “Global aging is changing the social and economic nature of the planet.” (*Telegraph*, 7/20)

Pressure is being put on the British government to abolish parents’ right to withdraw their children from sex education. Simon Blake, chief executive of Brook, an abortion referral agency, said: “Our belief is you cannot

reconcile children’s rights to high-quality sex and relationships education with the parental right of withdrawal. The right of withdrawal needs to be removed.” Parents will be given barely any say in the content of sex education under government plans to make the subject compulsory from primary school onwards, according to a new report. Norman Wells of the Family Education Trust, the report’s author, said that the move “would make schools less accountable to parents” and “would limit the discretion of individual schools.” (*Telegraph*, 7/16; 7/22)

The Mexican state of Yucatan has become the 14th Mexican state to introduce pro-life wording into its constitution. The move was in response to the decriminalization of abortion on demand in early pregnancy in Mexico City in 2007. The added wording reads:

“The state of Yucatan recognizes, protects, and guarantees the right to life of every human being, expressly affirming that, from the moment of fertilization, he comes under the protection of the law, and is to be treated like a human being that has been born for all corresponding legal effects, until his

natural death, with exceptions already foreseen in ordinary laws.” (*LifeSiteNews.com*, 7/16)

Amnesty International has attacked the total ban on abortion in Nicaragua, saying that it has resulted in pregnant women being denied other medical procedures. A pro-life source has told the SPUC (see note below) that there is no evidence that obstetrical emergencies are not being dealt with appropriately under the Nicaraguan law. SPUC warns that organizations with a pro-abortion agenda have a proven record of using false claims about maternal health in order to argue for abortion legalization. (*Amnesty International*, 7/27)

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.





Celebrating the Abundant Life in St. Louis!

Celebrating the Abundant Life was the theme as Lutherans gathered, July 24-25, from across the United States and Canada for the national conference of Lutherans For Life (LFL), the only pan-Lutheran pro-life organization in the nation.

In her welcoming message to conference attendees, President Diane Schroeder said, "If you are like me, God has placed in your heart an urgent need to respond to the destruction of life in our country—whether it is abortion, euthanasia, [or] embryonic stem cell research ... For you see, that calling that God has given you and me, that burning passion, is part of our abundant life ... Talk to your pastor, contact your crisis pregnancy center, ask yourself what can I do? There is no task too small ... God does not call us to victory, but to faithfulness ... May God give you perseverance, peace, and joy as you follow Him and walk in the abundant life He has given you."

Bobby Schindler, executive director of the Terri Schindler Schiavo Foundation Center for Health Care Ethics (pictured with Diane Schroeder and Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb), gave the Friday night keynote address on the theme Remembering Terri Schiavo: My Family's Battle to Save My Sister's Life.

Mr. Schindler described the court-ordered starvation of his sister, Terri, in 2005, as something that "no brother, no family, no parents should ever have to witness." Later he said it was the most "heinous, barbaric thing I've seen." He said his sister could have



"lived a normal life span if properly cared for and loved ... there are tens of thousands of 'Terri's' in our country today whose lives are just as vulnerable as hers was . . . [when] you devalue one life, you devalue all lives."

He asked "what are we going to do to care for these people [the cognitively disabled]? We have two choices: We are either going to keep rationalizing/justifying why it's okay to kill people with these types of disabilities or we are going to care and show them the love that they deserve."

Saturday morning included plenary addresses from Rev. Don Wagner (pastor of Christ and Zion Lutheran Churches in Elbow Lake and Hoffman, Minnesota) on Celebrating the Abundant Life through a Living Hope; and Col. John Eidsmoe (member of the LFL Board of Directors and Legal Counsel for the Foundation for Moral Law) on Being Pro-Life in the Obama Era.

Workshops, led by Linda Bartlett, Col. John Eidsmoe, Professor Charles Ford, Renee Gibbs, Dr. Peter Greenspan, Rev. Dr. James

I. Lamb, Rev. Russell Saltzman, Rev. Don Wagner, and Jennie Williamson, focused on following the Shepherd from the beginning of life to the end of life and through the trials of life in-between. Also on Saturday morning, a group of attendees held a sidewalk prayer vigil at a Saint Louis abortion clinic.

Dr. Lamb's opening worship sermon theme was **The Abundant Life** based on John 10:1-11. He said a life of following the Shepherd is "not always easy. Sometimes our lives can get pretty dark ... crisis pregnancies come into our families and to our lives and illness comes into our lives and death comes into our lives ... and sometimes we wonder where the shepherd is ... but the Good Shepherd comforts us with His rod and His staff ... Our Good Shepherd gives us promise after promise after promise ... 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' 'I am with you always.' 'I go ahead of you.' Promise after promise. And even though it seems like the Shepherd is not there in our lives, we trust in His promises and we know that He is ... and someday He will lead us into His eternal dwelling where we will dwell with Him forever. And then, dear friends, the abundant life will truly be a life of abundance!"

**Join Us
in 2010!**



**National
Lutherans
For Life
Conference
July 23-24
Milwaukee,
Wisconsin**

Bringing Good News to Life!

Scenes from the LFL Conference



Photos courtesy Rev. Doug Merkey, www.getintolife.org; Paula Ross, www.lcms.org

Renewal For Life®:

An Update

by Jerilyn Richard,
RFL Coordinator



RENEWAL FOR LIFE® (RFL), LFL'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 introduced and received by a number of Lutheran church bodies. RFL has not yet reached all of the Lutheran denominations but it is our goal to introduce RFL to all Lutheran church bodies by the end of 2009.

There has been very positive and encouraging response from pastors and grassroots supporters. Pastors are looking for help in applying the Gospel to the life issues, and that is what RFL is all about. We seek to renew the three Rs.

The **Responsibility** to address the life issues belongs to pastors and congregations.

They have what it takes to do so—the **Relevancy** of the Gospel which speaks so powerfully to the life issues.

LFL pledges to help by organizing our **Resources** and delivering them in a way that is “user friendly” via an online library.

The RFL online library includes life-related materials with worship and sermon helps, Bible studies, commentaries, articles, essays, audio and video files, and ideas on incorporating the For Life message into the ongoing ministry of the congregation. A forum allows pastors to seek support and guidance from other pastors when dealing with a difficult situation.



Many of our state presidents and chapter leaders are trained as presenters to facilitate circuit/pastor meetings across the country to present the RFL initiative. They are there to provide encouragement, energy, and mentoring to congregations involved in RFL.

Something new we have produced as an option for presenting RFL, is an Individual Training Packet for those who would like to present RFL on a one-on-one basis with their pastor or small group of pastors in their area.

RENEWAL FOR LIFE® is growing both in our congregations and also here at the national office, which is why we are excited to have

Kim Nessa, the new RFL Administrative Assistant, here to help with the growing needs generated by this exciting new initiative.



For more information about presenting RFL or general information about this initiative you may contact Kim at the national office and she will assist you.

We are still learning and updating this process as we go, your input on how we can improve things is welcome and appreciated.

Please keep **RENEWAL FOR LIFE®** in your prayers.

ELCA Network

An e-newsletter for networking and supporting pro-life ELCA pastors has been established. It is called, "Pro-Life Network of ELCA Rostered Leaders and Church Professionals." To subscribe, send an e-mail request to Pastor Ron Yarnell at elcaprolife@live.com. Articles and information can be submitted to the newsletter. He hopes to form a blog as well. Spread the word.

Life on the Road this Summer

Lutherans For Life was on the road this summer sharing the Word of Life at numerous conferences and conventions including:

LCMS Campus Mission Confabulation
Lutheran Women's Missionary League
FLY 2009 (AFLC Youth Conference)
Higher Things (LCMS youth conference)
Int'l Lutheran Laymens League

We also had materials available at the **AFLC National Conference** and the **AALC Youth Convention**.

Along with the opportunity to share our resources, we also get to meet many wonderful and supportive people.

Kay Meyer, LFL's director of development, was at the LWML Convention in Portland, Oregon, where she met a district LWML president. This woman shared,

"Our LFL chapter put up a poster of how babies develop in the womb and posted it in our churches and the community. A pregnant woman saw it and called the number to ask for assistance. Because of that poster, and help she was offered when she called, she decided not to move forward with her plans to have an abortion."

A child's life was saved because LFL chapter volunteers put up a poster in their community! Praise God for Lutherans who share God's love and the Word of Life with others.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... In him was life, and the life was the light of men"
 (John 1:1, 4).

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Fetal Development Resources



Watch Me Grow Posters

These beautifully illustrated posters document the growth stages of a baby for nine months in the womb. These posters are an excellent teaching tool for schools, hospitals, caring pregnancy centers or doctors' offices. Display them individually on a monthly basis or as a set.

Single composite poster 24" x 30"

Item 101P. \$35.00 ea.

Ten Piece Set of 16" x 20" posters

Item 100P. \$35.00 per set.

Eleven Piece Set of all poster above

Item 102P. \$50.00 per set.

Also available online: A free PDF download of commentaries to use with "Watch Me Grow" posters.



For more on fetal development go to:

www.lutheransforlife.org

Estate Planning is Good Stewardship

Did you know that estate planning is good stewardship? Are you making plans for the future? A good estate plan will provide for an orderly transfer of the financial blessings that God has bestowed upon you and your family. Having no estate plan can be expensive and cause your heirs difficulties.

Did you know ...

Only 30 percent of Lutherans have wills or revocable living trusts?

Only two to three percent of those Lutherans who have wills have left a gift to ministry?

What a missed opportunity to be excellent stewards of all God has blessed us with!

If you haven't prayerfully considered establishing an estate plan that continues your Christian giving after your death, you should. Lutherans For Life is one of the ministries that could benefit after your death. Include a gift in your estate to support Lutherans for Life.



Learn how charitable giving can provide for you, your heirs, and the Lord's work through Lutherans For Life. LFL partners with several Lutheran foundations. Many of them have gift planning counselors who live near you and offer gift planning seminars, workshops, and individual counseling upon request.

LFL Endowment Fund

Did you know Lutherans For Life has an Endowment Fund? The Lutherans For Life Endowment Fund receives gifts and bequests and uses them for the mission and ministry of LFL, its national office, state federations, and local chapters. The principal will not be invaded in any way, unless designed by the donor. According to the Endowment Fund documents, the interest earned can be used for:

- **Education:** this includes printing and publishing of written materials and/or audio/visual productions, providing speakers and related activities.
- **Scholarships:** which may include assisting pastors and lay people to attend the LFL conferences.
- **Building Fund/Groups Improvement:** Special projects which are of a capital nature to improve and repair LFL national office facilities.
- **Technology:** Special projects of electronic or other technological opportunities as they become available.
- **Abortion and Post-Abortion Ministry.**

How do I contribute to the fund? Individuals who desire to support the Fund should designate that their gift is to: **Lutherans For Life Endowment Fund**. Gifts of cash and publicly traded securities are acceptable. Your gifts can be undesignated (no minimum) or designated (\$25,000 minimum gift).

Lutherans For Life is needed today, more than ever. You can help take the Word of Life to young and old alike by contributing a gift to the Endowment Fund of Lutherans For Life.

Please call **Kay Meyer** at 515-441-6571 or e-mail kmeyer@lutheransforlife.org if you have questions about estate planning and the Lutherans For Life Endowment Fund.

Thank You to Thrivent Chapters

A special thank you to the following Thrivent Chapters that matched funds at the 2009 LFL Conference in Saint Louis.

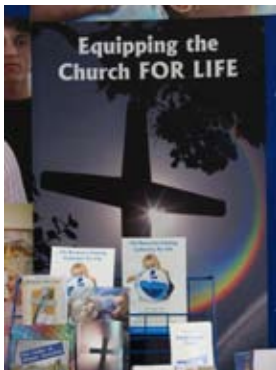


**Westport St. Louis County
Chapter 30668**

South St. Louis Chapter 30663

Mid South St. Louis Chapter 30647

Kevin and Tawn B. of St. Louis wrote, "What a wonderful opportunity to have the National Lutherans For Life Conference right in our town! Our family is so thankful to the Thrivent groups who pitched in to provide financial help for seminary families. During this extreme penny-pinching time it was such a relief to know that this, at least, was one thing we wouldn't have to give up due to lack of funds. Thank you and may God continue to bless you to be a blessing!"



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.

Your individual gifts provide for the annual and long-term needs of LFL.

Give online:

www.lutheransforlife.org

Automatic Bank Drafts:

Many banks offer electronic funds transfer from your checking or savings accounts.

Matching Gifts:

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

Planned Gifts:

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

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).



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* (using the English Standard Version).

October 4 - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The simple clarity of today's readings on marriage gives opportunity to uphold this God-given institution between a man and a woman (Genesis 2:18-25, Mark 10:2-16). It gives opportunity to condemn the sin of same-sex marriage as contrary to this clear truth of Scripture. The Epistle gives opportunity to uplift every sinner through the "merciful and faithful high priest," Jesus Christ (Hebrews 2:14-18). Also available from our *Life Resource Catalog* and as a free download: ***Marriage - A Statement by Lutherans For Life***. Item 905T. \$0.25 ea.

October 11 - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The rich man's question seemed mixed up. "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Mark 10:17b) You can't *do* anything to *inherit* something. Eternal life is a free gift from God to His children in Christ. That's disheartening news for those secure in their sin. It is very heartening news for those crushed under the impossible weight of their sin.

October 18 - Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

As Christians, we rest from our work and work toward our rest. Our great high priest, Jesus, (Hebrews 4:14) accomplished for us the work of salvation. But we have works of obedience to the living Word to do as we move toward our final rest (4:11). Promoting the value of human

life is part of that obedience. Pointing those who have sinned against life to a Savior who can "sympathize with our weaknesses" (4:15) is part of that obedience as well.

October 25 - Reformation Sunday

Luther's slavery: No one righteous under the law, righteousness by works, accountable. Luther's freedom: righteousness apart from the law, righteousness through faith, justified. (Romans 3:19-28) No matter what sins enslave us (include abortion in your list), Jesus Christ frees us.

November 1 - All Saints Day

"You will be like God" (Genesis 3:5) started the sinful human race. "We shall be like him" (1 John 3:2) declares the victorious finish. But even in between, He who called us to be His children in Christ declares us saints. Words like "blessed" (Matthew 5:1-12) and "pure" (1 John 3:3) and "washed" (Revelation 7:14) apply to us now because they are applied to us now by our gracious God. Christians who sin against life particularly need to hear of their sainthood.

November 8 - Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Pentecost

"Eagerly waiting for him" (Hebrews 9:28) frames the context in which Christians face the realities of life while waiting. Knowing that Jesus dealt with sin once and for all in His first coming enables us to wait for His second coming with the assurance of His power and presence. Like the widows (1 Kings 17:8-16, Mark 12:38-44), in the bleakest of circumstances, we trust He is at work.

November 15 - Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

The freeing promise of God cannot be over



emphasized for those who bear the weight of the sin of abortion, "I will remember their sins their lawless deeds no more" (Hebrews 10:18). It is good to have a forgiving and forgetting God!

November 22 – Last Sunday of the Church Year

On this last Sunday of the Church Year Jesus tells us "keep awake" for no one knows the day of His return (Mark 13:33). But this is more than just wakeful watching. It is to be wakeful working! The master has left His servants in charge with work to do (13:34). We must not grow weary of proclaiming the truth of our Master's Word.

November 29 – First Sunday in Advent

No matter what sufferings we carry or how weary we become, Jesus provides hope-filled news about His second coming. "Straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28). Some things are worth waiting for!

December 6 – Second Sunday in Advent

What would John the Baptist answer today to the question, "What then shall we do?" (Luke 3:10)? Today's fruit of repentance might include: Honor biblical marriage. Remain sexually pure. Welcome children instead of aborting them. Care for the infirm rather than killing them. Boldly speak about God's truth of life, but do so in love.

December 13 – Third Sunday in Advent


"Be quiet" is often spoken harshly. But Zephaniah speaks it for comfort. "He will quiet you with his love" (3:17). Because of God's love demonstrated in Christ, we need not "be anxious about anything" (Philippians 4:6). No matter what sin may burden us or what circumstances may overwhelm us, God speaks through His living Word, "Be quiet."

December 20 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

Mary's visit to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45) shows the value and humanity of the unborn. John leaps for joy in Elizabeth's womb (1:44). His joy comes from being in the presence of Jesus, a tiny embryo just implanting in Mary's womb. The fact that Jesus was not just the God-Man but also the God-Embryo, attests to our humanity as embryos and our value to God as embryos.

December 27 – First Sunday after Christmas

Most people in the temple that day saw Jesus as just another baby. Simeon saw his salvation (Luke 2:30). Now he could "depart in peace" (2:29). Here we see true death with dignity, dying with the knowledge of our salvation and according to God's timetable.



Also check out
Life Quotes at
www.lutheransforlife.org



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.

Adoption: The Loving and Positive Option

by Diane E. Schroeder



Adoption is wonderful. Anyone who knows my husband and me knows that adoption has been a significant blessing in our life. God blessed us with four wonderful children through adoption. Mike, Liz, Paul, and Beka are all young adults now, well-educated, on their own (mostly), and thriving. I am grateful to their birth mothers for allowing them to live and experience all of God's blessings and purpose that He designed for them. Their birth mothers are truly courageous women who I admire and respect.

Adoption is a loving option chosen by a young woman who is thinking of the well-being of her child. Adoption was the primary force that God used to "push" me into the pro-life movement and Lutherans For Life. How different my life would have been without the gift of adoption.

I also work for CareNet Pregnancy Services, our local pregnancy resource center. Adoption is another option that we present to our clients. "What about adoption?" is also a question I get from people who support our work. I am always saddened to say that adoption is an option that is rarely chosen by women in unplanned pregnancies. The statistics are frightening. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, infant adoptions account for only 6,800 of adoptions that occur in our country every year. Since 1989, African American in-

fant adoptions are a statistical zero. Why has adoption become an option rarely chosen by women in unplanned pregnancies?

There is no doubt that *Roe v. Wade* played a significant role in the downfall of infant adoption. Before 1973, nearly nine percent of never-married women placed their babies at birth for adoption. For white women, the statistic was about 20 percent. Now that figure is barely one percent. Of the approximately three million unplanned pregnancies that occur in our

country every year, 40 percent will end in abortion.

Adoption is viewed negatively in our society. Just look at the language. "Put up for adoption." "Given away." As if that child was a piece of property and the mother insensitive and uncaring. Hatred for adoption pours out of web sites such as www.antiadoption.com and www.KeepYourBaby.com.

"No one wants to be an adoptee." "No mother who has lost a child to adoption fully recovers." "With abortion, grief has closure. With adoption, the grief intensifies over time," is a common warning.

Single motherhood is an acceptable option for many women, particularly if they have the support of their partner and families. Women who don't have an abortion rarely choose adoption. They don't want to carry a child for nine months and then "give away"



Let's encourage our pastors to preach and teach, equipping our people to find life affirming solutions—like adoption—to difficult problems.

their babies. So the option chosen in most unplanned pregnancy situations is either abortion or parenting.

Adoption is looked at very positively by the pro-life community and many people don't understand why it is an option chosen so rarely by women in unwanted pregnancies. **What can you do to help?** First of all, watch your language. Speak about adoption positively. Use terms such as "made an adoption plan." Talk about women who choose adoption as loving and sacrificial. Acknowledge that adoption is a loss and there is grief involved. Know that adoption is a tool used by God to solve family problems. Biblical models of adoption abound, Moses (Exodus 2); Eliezer (Genesis 15); Ephraim and Manasseh (Genesis 48); Samuel (1 Samuel 1); and of course Jesus adopted by Joseph. In unwanted pregnancy situations, adoption—**not abortion**—is a God-pleasing solution.

One of our CareNet clients, Rachel, became pregnant after a one night stand. A promising dancer, the pregnancy was completely incompatible with her career and possibly could end it. This young Christian woman struggled with what to do. Obviously, abortion would be an "easy" solution. No one would know and she could continue with her blossoming career. But Rachel knew God's Word and she decided to continue the pregnancy. She is now considering adoption as a solution to her unwanted pregnancy. Her friends ask her why she didn't have an abortion and Rachel can speak to the power of God in her life. A strong young woman, Rachel is one of my heroes.

Rachel's story is the vision of Lutherans For Life. God's Word is life altering. When Christians know what God's Word says about life issues, decisions can and do change. As servants of the Lord of Life working through the ministry of Lutherans For Life, let us strive to bring God's truth to our churches. To Him be the glory!



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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