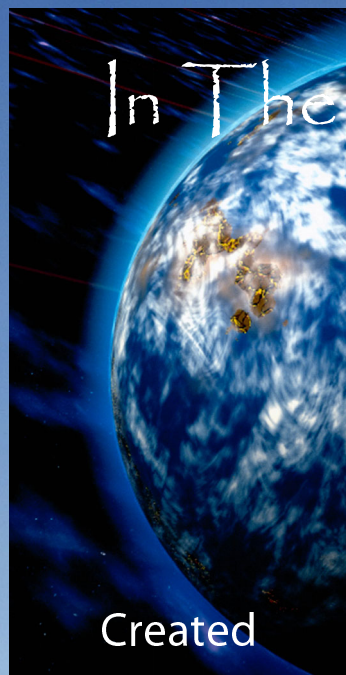


# LifeDate

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

WINTER 2004

*Witnessing to the Sanctity of Human Life through education based on the Word of God.*



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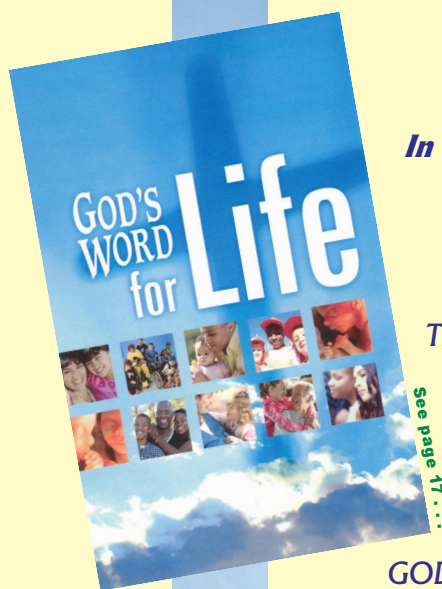
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## The Holiest Number?

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb  
Executive Director - Lutherans For Life

What is the holiest number? Some say 7, for it is the number of God. Some say 777, for it is the holy Trinity as opposed to the unholy trinity of 666. It appears to me, however, that the holiest number is 501(c)(3). I came to that conclusion as I was pondering the possible answers to this question. "What will it take to get the Church to rise up and boldly take a stand for God's truth?"

Will the Church rise up when the government takes away the right to life of the most vulnerable of our children?

Evidently not.

Abortion has been legal for 32 years. While some corners of the Church have voiced opposition from time to time, this opposition comes no where close to a united rising up of Christendom to stand on God's Word of Life and oppose this great evil. Besides, abortion is such a political issue, and we would not want to violate our 501(c)(3) status by talking about it in the pulpit.

Will the Church rise up when the government gives the right to homosexuals to marry and tells the Church they must bless same sex unions?

Evidently not.

Homosexuality is acceptable to more and more denominations. Some have already blessed same sex unions and have opened their pulpits to homosexuals. Besides, homosexuality is such a political issue. We might be charged with hate speech and lose our 501(c)(3) status if we address this in the pulpit.

Will the Church rise up when the government says we can no longer proclaim the Word of God?

Evidently not.

The Church has been the leader in removing the Word of God from herself. A six-day Creation, miracles, the virgin birth of Jesus, the bodily resurrection of Jesus—these and more have been relegated to a "take it or leave it" status. Many "Christian" sermons have become "feel good" speeches offering at best mere morsels of morality. Besides such preaching would never run the risk of endangering our 501(c)(3) status.

Will the Church rise up when the government says we can no longer have 501(c)(3) status?

Oh yes!

Christendom would unite with such a loud voice that the granite blocks and marble dome of the U.S. Capitol would

shake as if the San Andreas Fault had moved east. Sunday services would be cancelled so that congregations could travel in bus loads to Washington D. C. to lobby Congress. With a single voice the Church would demand its 501(c)(3) status so that it could continue to defend the truth of . . . Hmmm? What truths would be left to defend I wonder?

Now I hope you have been reading this with that proverbial "grain of salt." I really do not believe that 501(c)(3) is the holiest number, and I am not advocating that churches give up their 501(c)(3) status. Indeed, tax-exempt status is a blessing in that it allows more funds to be used for sharing the Gospel. However, as was particularly evident prior to the recent election, many hide behind this status and refuse to take a stand where God's Word clearly speaks. I thank God for LFL's 501(c)(3) status. But I also pray to God that we would never allow it to weaken our resolve to stand on and proclaim God's truth. The results of the recent election show that when we do, we can make a difference.

*Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.*"  
(Ephesians 6:13)

The total number of abortions in the U.S. from 1973-2002 is estimated to be **44,010,378**.\*



In 2000, more children died from abortion than Americans died in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf Wars combined.\*\*

There were over **3,600 abortions per day** in 2000, **151 per hour, one every 24 seconds**. In that same year, there were 306 abortions for every 1000 live births.

\*from projections based on Alan Guttmacher Institute and Centers for Disease Control statistics  
\*\*National Right to Life Committee

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## Looking Forward

by Diane E. Schroeder  
President, National Lutherans For Life

Members of Lutherans For Life gathered in Cincinnati the second week in November to join in thanking God for 25 years of blessing to Lutherans for Life (LFL). Although the mission of LFL has not changed, the world in which we witness, and the organization we love, has changed—and LFL has been growing to meet these changes (and challenges!).

- From small beginnings with a volunteer staff to a paid executive director and seven staff members.
- From rented “closet” space on a college campus to owning our own building—the Life Center—in Nevada, Iowa (north of Des Moines).
- God has blessed LFL with resources to grow. From a 1988 budget of \$130,539 to \$519,000 for 2004.
- Use of LFL materials continues to grow across the board, including Life Sunday materials (see the full color insert). In 1997 we had 931 bulletin insert orders, in 2004 we had 1473.

This past year the Board of Directors of LFL took time to obtain and analyze information from the people we serve. From this process we have outlined critical issues and strategic goals to address these issues. Management plans were then added to give “bone and muscle” to these very important goals. Here are a few highlights:

- **Encourage and motivate more grassroots activity** – We recognized that we need to continue to encourage and equip our grass roots. The new position of Director of Outreach (Ed Szeto) and the continued promotion of our Leadership/Speaker Training Seminars (see page 19) are good ways to begin implementing this goal.
- **Produce and distribute resources for use in schools and churches at all levels** – In 2005, LFL will begin developing a comprehensive curriculum on life issues that can be adapted for various programs within congregational and school life.
- **Increase use of LFL resources by educators and pastors** – Although our Life Sunday materials are used extensively, we need to find more ways to implement the life message within congregational life. Plans include a special mailing of *LifeDate* to Lutheran educators, additional materials to share the life message at other times during the church

year (i.e. our new Christmas insert on page 11), and more downloadable materials.

- **Make national conferences family-friendly** – The goal is to increase “whole-family” participation.
- **Work toward a witness to the sanctity of human life to and by all Lutherans** – We will continue to actively seek opportunities to share the life message—and the mission and vision of LFL—in all Lutheran publications, seminaries, and institutions of higher learning.
- **Create a greater awareness within ALL Lutheran congregations** – LFL enjoys a good reputation within many Lutheran circles, particularly for our materials, but we need to do more. We plan to encourage LFL chapters to reach out to all the Lutheran congregations in their areas, recruit pastors from the numerous Lutheran bodies to share the life message and represent LFL, and create new materials to help pastors consistently present the pro-life message within their congregations.
- **Expand giving opportunities and seek out new funding options** – Karen Frohwein, Director of Development, has been added to the staff.

For 25 years LFL and its supporters have made a positive difference in the lives of Lutherans by witnessing to the value of life based on the Word of God, speaking the truth in love (watching the Holy Spirit change hearts and minds), and through education. We have been the hand of Christ as we worked with caring pregnancy centers, reaching out to those involved in a crisis pregnancy. We have shown compassion to thousands of men and women burdened with grief who bought the lie that abortion is a quick and easy fix.

Life issues will not disappear. Satan is still working over time to destroy God’s greatest creation—human life. Warriors are still needed. Let us pledge to redouble our efforts until all life is accorded the dignity given it by God.

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## The Election and Life Issues

by Christian Medical & Dental Association  
Senior Policy Analyst Jonathan Imbody

President George W. Bush won an electrifying election by energizing his Christian and conservative bases on core issues and by winning over a margin of erstwhile skeptics with bridge-building efforts. He did so by defending America from terrorists, signing a ban on partial-birth abortions, promoting a ban on human cloning, introducing faith-based initiatives, and supporting a constitutional amendment to define marriage as between a man and a woman. Exit polls indicated overwhelming support for Bush from evangelicals. The President, once accused by pro-abortion feminists as “confusing the Christian Medical Association with the American Medical Association,” now will likely push for medical liability limits and for healthcare reform that features health savings accounts.

■ Sen. Bill Frist, MD (R-TN) by virtue of his party not only maintaining but increasing its majority, will continue as Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate. If party voting patterns persist, this ratio will keep the door open to pro-life legislation and judges—including a potential of three new Supreme Court justices. Notable pro-life winners in U.S. Senate races include:

John Thune (R-SD) pulled the power plug out of Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), who had obstructed many judicial nominations and pro-life bills.

Sen. Sam Brownback (R-KS), a Wilberforce-style leader of the drive to ban human cloning, won re-election by a huge margin.

■ Californians, after intense lobbying by subsidy seeking scientists and Hollywood celebrities and an endorsement by renegade Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, voted enthusiastically to fund embryo destructive stem cell research. CMA labeled the program “welfare for scientists.” Ironically, as Wendy Wright of Concerned Women for America points out, this \$3 billion potential boondoggle now may serve to “take the wind out of the arguments for [increased] federal funding of embryonic stem cell research.”

■ Floridians voted by about a 2-1 margin to require parental notification when their child is considering an abortion.

■ In every state offering a constitutional amendment upholding traditional marriage—Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana, Mississippi, Ohio, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Oregon—voters passed it by substantial margins. Eight states also barred recognition of civil unions, domestic partnerships, or similar arrangements.

(News & Views, 11/3; © 2004 Christian Medical & Dental Associations; [www.cmdahome.org](http://www.cmdahome.org))

## Pro-Life Political Wish List

Now that the election is over, and with the re-election of President Bush, many life-affirming citizens are hoping for the passing of the following pro-life/pro-family measures:



- **The Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act**, which requires that a woman contemplating abortion be made aware that her unborn child feels pain during the abortion process.
- **The Child Custody Protection Act**, which would make it a crime to take a pregnant minor across state lines for an abortion when state law requires notification of parents beforehand.
- Congressional approval of a **federal constitutional amendment preserving traditional marriage** as between one man and one woman.
- **Houses of Worship Free Speech Restoration Act**, which would enable clergy to endorse political candidates and speak out about political issues without jeopardizing their churches' tax-exempt status.

Lutherans For Life will report and comment, as needed, on these legislative measures in future editions of *LifeDate* and through e-mail updates.

(*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, LifeWire, 11/9*)

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## Forgotten Fathers

by Grace Kern, Director of Word of Hope

At Word of Hope we see how important it is to not overlook the needs of men. For every woman who participates in an abortion, there is a man. Although men are less likely to seek recovery, they suffer many of the same emotional feelings as women.

Jason was 19 years old. He had just joined the military when his girlfriend wrote and told him she was pregnant. "I was scared but excited, I wanted to marry her." When he returned home after basic training, Jason was informed by his girlfriend's father that he had taken his daughter for an abortion. Kate's father told him he would no longer be allowed to see his daughter. Jason left. That was ten years ago and he still cannot stop thinking about her and his child. Jason says, "When I see a young pregnant woman I think about her, I let them both down, I was not there to protect her or my baby." Jason sought counsel from Word of Hope, where he learned about God's forgiveness. He then returned to his childhood church.

Tom was a struggling college student when his girlfriend told him she was pregnant. Tom did what many in his situation have done, he convinced her to get an abortion. "Neither of us wanted to be parents," he explained, "But I made the appointment for her. I will never forget how her face looked when she came out of the abortion clinic. She looked like she died along with our baby. I still remember going to McDonalds afterward. It has been twenty years and I still think about her and our baby when I pass there." Ultimately, guilt and shame led Tom to Word of Hope for counsel, where he learned about God's forgiveness.

In both cases, the men say what followed was regret, sorrow, and conviction. Both are permanently scarred.

They have been called forgotten fathers, men stripped of their fundamental right to protect their unborn children. Their grief is not validated by a society that paradoxically demands accountability from the deadbeat dad but scorns the one who wants his child to live.

"Abortion rewrites the rules of masculinity," says Dr. Vincent Rue, one of the nation's leading psychologists in post-abortion issues. "Whether or not the male was involved in the abortion decision, his inability to function in a socially prescribed manner leaves him wounded and confused." Society is not sympathetic to abortion survivors in general (Post-Abortion Syndrome is still not recognized by the American Psychiatric Association), and men are virtually ignored when it comes to abortion.

Men are also bypassed legally. Like Jason, most men do not realize until they face an unplanned pregnancy that they have no rights and no legal recourse to protect their unborn children.

There are two "abortion rights" lies: Abortion is a woman's issue only and the death of the unborn is not a real death. Men neglect their own healing to console the woman, rather than express their own feelings of anger, hurt, or betrayal.

What prevents men from dealing with their past abortions? First, men often don't know they are suffering because the symptoms of post-abortion stress seem unrelated to the abortion itself—inability to form trusting relationships, difficulty bonding with children, anger, risk taking, depression, suicidal feelings, panic attacks, and addictions. It is not uncommon that it may take up to ten years before men make the connection between their unhealthy behavior and an abortion.

Word of Hope offers help for men. For men to heal from an abortion they must:

**Grieve:** Men have been taught not to show their feelings. They need to cry and acknowledge that they have lost somebody who is dear to them. The result is that grown men have a difficult time expressing their own emotions. Many have never seen their fathers cry. Some have never seen another man cry. Combined with their fragile ego and lack of "emotional" role models, it is understandable why men don't seek recovery. However, men feel pain just like women. Men grieve the loss just like women.

**Forgive:** It took Jason ten years and Tom twenty years to fully grasp what had happened and to accept God's love and forgiveness.

**Reconcile:** After an abortion, 70 percent of relationships end shortly thereafter. Many men seek some sort of reconciliation with those involved. Tom contacted his former girlfriend and apologized for his role. Jason still has a strong need to find his girlfriend and tell her he is sorry for not protecting her.

**Acceptance:** I am a father. My child would have been ten or twenty by now. Until men begin to acknowledge that abortion has damaged their lives and do something about it, society, families, and the Church will continue to suffer. For men and women alike, the feeling of emptiness may last a lifetime. Parents are parents forever, even of a dead child.

As we come to Jesus we are in truth no longer separated from our God. We are completely forgiven as if we never sinned. We have the privilege of experiencing how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ (Ephesians 3:18).

## The Courageous Decision

by Mark McDougal

When you see the joy and jubilation surrounding a family completed or blessed by the adoption of a new child, do you wonder about the birth mother? Why did she give up the joy of motherhood? How could she do it? Should she have done it? And what power is operative in a woman who chooses to place her child for adoption? When a mother makes this choice, she goes against the grain of her created nature—that God-given instinct, desire, and enabling to care for a new baby.

### Carissa

*“I knew from the beginning of my pregnancy that I should place the child up for adoption. But it was hard, HARD, HARD!”*

### Rhonda

*“I kept questioning myself. Was I taking the easy way out? Was I just fooling myself? Was this God’s best for my baby?”*

Carissa and Rhonda, at ages 17 and 19, respectively, faced the same dilemma—an unplanned pregnancy. Granted, there are cases when babies are removed from a birth mother due to her inability to provide care or her irresponsible behavior. But many “able” young mothers facing an unplanned pregnancy must evaluate their support system, determine the best interests of this new little life, and then, before God, determine if they will tackle parenting or place the child in a loving adoptive family. One expert has said, “It may take greater love and sacrifice to place a child than to parent.” Maybe some questions cross your mind—or your lips. Isn’t the mother taking the easy way out? Shouldn’t she bear the consequences for her sin? God can use an unplanned pregnancy, even an unwanted pregnancy, for His glory and His purposes—for the birth mother, the birth father, and the baby. Does not God delight in redeeming that which we view as hopeless?

### Carissa

*“I connected with and loved my baby even before he was born. I understood that my pregnancy was a*

*result of sin and my irresponsibility. Learning of God’s forgiveness and love for me, I knew this was my chance to be responsible again.*

*“Because I loved him so much, I knew I had to sacrifice my personal desire to be with him in order to provide for him. At the time, there was little guarantee that I could provide what I wanted for him—emotional support, material needs, and, in particular, a father.*

*“I couldn’t transfer the parenting responsibility to my mom for a few years, hoping I’d grow up and then take back the reins of my responsibility.”*

So how do these birth mothers do it? God has obviously enabled them to demonstrate extreme sacrificial love and selflessness. They do this courageous thing in the face of pressure to please themselves or others.

### Rhonda

*“I can honestly say I don’t remember any time in my Christian walk when God’s presence and my faith were any stronger.”*

### Carissa

*“It was the most difficult thing I have ever done, but God gave me a calm confidence and so much peace in the middle of it all—it was even difficult to explain to others. I can’t imagine going through the placement process without a relationship with God.”*



Rhonda and Carissa

Besides God’s gift of salvation, Scripture relates many stories of sacrifice motivated by love. At first, Moses’ mother may have appeared irresponsible by floating him in a basket along the banks of the Nile. In fact, love for her son motivated her unusual plan to save his life (Exodus 2).

And what of the new mother who cried out to Solomon as he prepared to “divide” the newborn between her and another woman claiming to be the mother? **“Filled**

**with compassion for her son [the woman] said to the king, ‘Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don’t kill him!’”** (1 Kings 3:26). A loving mother is one who, if necessary, can “give away” her right to motherhood in order to give the kind of life to her child that she cannot provide.

As if making this courageous decision isn’t enough, birth moms who place for adoption are required to revisit that decision several times before it becomes reality.

- There is the reality check that comes when adoptive parents are chosen. “Am I abandoning my child?”
- Other well-meaning advisors and loved ones may not want to give up the role of grandparent, aunt, or babysitting friend. Sometimes they advise out of their own guilt, fear, or lack of information.

**Carissa**

*“At first, I remember worrying about choosing the right adoptive parents, but then I experienced God’s leading and real confidence. I had the joy of influencing my son by selecting a Christian family.”*

**Rhonda**

*“I remember my concern and doubt when I considered my son being an only child in his newly adopted family. The doubt returned later when I learned that the adoptive parents now had two more biological children. Would my child be treated fairly?”*

- When the baby is born, the birth mother must buck against that God-given instinct to mother and protect. There is an emotional and physical bonding that must become temporary. At the same time, there is a rush of hormones intended to support God’s design.
- Last moments and goodbyes before the baby is placed in the care of his or her new parents are important and usually planned carefully and lovingly. But, these are usually painful moments for the birth mother.
- Then there are various requirements by state, such as a waiting period of three days before the birth mom can sign over her parental rights. Even after parental rights are signed away, most states allow additional days in which the birth mother can rescind her decision, and often an additional court notification or appearance is required. At any of these points, many of us would run from our commitment to place the baby. We’d stop the process, numb the pain of separation, and grab for the security and love offered at the moment.

Those experienced in the adoption process know that if a birth mother is to make it through all of these pressure points and be healthy in the years to come, she will need support and a full understanding of both adoption and parenting alternatives. A birth mother must also be coached and prepared for the grief process that follows placement—a process much like experiencing the death of a child or loved one.

**Carissa**

*“Holidays were hard, but every month it got a little easier.”*

**Rhonda**

*“I had some ups and downs. Things are great now, but I was in a fog for the first few years—I didn’t connect with the help I needed to process and heal.”*

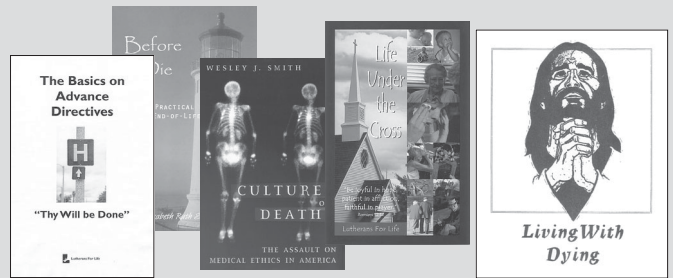
What is the life desired for the child? Is the decision to place based on facts or fears? As the years go by, a birth mom’s emotional health depends on her ability to look back on her decision with confidence, ownership, and peace rather than guilt or regret.

While each adoption is a special story of God’s work in the lives of people, birth mothers who carefully and purposefully place their children for adoption should be supported and affirmed. They have sacrificed for their child from a heart of love! They are truly courageous.

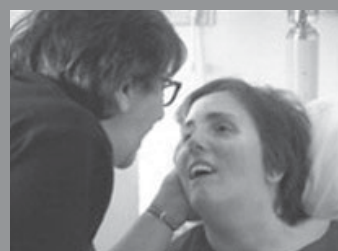
*Carissa’s and Rhonda’s sons are now three years old and ten years old, respectively, and are happily growing in their adoptive families.*

*(Mark McDougal is the executive director of Ruth Harbor, a Christ-centered home and program for young women facing unplanned pregnancies. Counselors and staff assist residents in thinking through the all-important question of parenting or placing. For information about Ruth Harbor, call 515-279-4661 or visit [www.ruthharbor.org](http://www.ruthharbor.org).)*

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**For the latest on the Terri Schiavo case go to: [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)**

## What's Your Plan?

by Linda D. Bartlett

It was as if the journalist from Reuters News Service was speaking directly to me. "What's your plan," he pointedly and bluntly asked, "for parenting and educating all the unwanted children *you people* want to bring into the world? Who will pay for policing our streets and maintaining the prisons needed to contain them when you, their parents, and the system fail them?" (*Breakpoint with Charles Colson, 9/8/04*)

Wow! This journalist, with brutal honesty, asked the question which may be in the minds of many people who defend abortion as a solution to difficult problems of life. At the same time, however, he reveals his own pessimism, lack of creativity, and hopelessness.

How do you and I respond?

We respond by being a part of Lutherans For Life (LFL). It really takes my breath away when I think of all the opportunities that are within arm's reach of this educational and pan-Lutheran ministry. I've stayed involved with LFL all these years because this is a ministry that doesn't just talk about being pro-life. We try to live pro-life. We don't just tell other people not to choose abortion. We try to help people choose life. We don't consider desperate situations to be hopeless. We look for creative solutions that inspire people to hope.

We respond by helping to build a culture of life. But what does such a culture look like? A culture of life is the opposite of what happened at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. A culture of life does not teach young people to shoot their fellow students or feel so unloved and worthless that they would end their own lives.

A culture of life is the opposite of what happened in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania on 9/11. A culture of life does not sacrifice innocent human life in order to accomplish a political, religious, economic, or personal agenda.

A culture of life is the opposite of what happens every day in abortion mills across the country. A culture of life does not offer death as a choice to women who find themselves carrying a child who may momentarily be viewed as "inconvenient" and then abandon those women to suffer the loss of that child.

"What's your plan for parenting and educating all the unwanted children *you people* want to bring into the world?" asked the journalist for Reuters News Service.

The answer offered by Lutherans who love life is based on the generational and hopeful plan of the Almighty God.

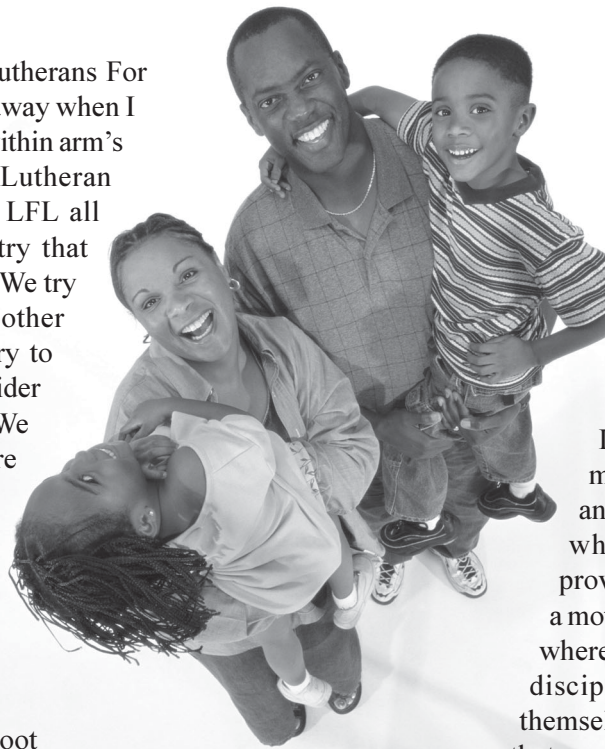
**First**, we do not consider any child to be unwanted. God creates every child; therefore, He wants every child. He loves children of all sizes—embryonic or full-grown. To God, no child is an accident or mistake. It is because we live in a sinful world that life becomes difficult. It is because human fathers and mothers are tempted to think first of their own needs or desires that children are considered inconvenient. It is because fathers and mothers fail to trust God and instead fear the future that unborn children are not welcomed into the human family.

This is why you see Lutherans who love life volunteering at caring pregnancy centers, befriending unwed mothers, helping with adoption plans, or giving support to parents whose child has a physical or mental challenge.

**Second**, we have a plan for parenting and educating children. It is God's plan. It is called faithful marriage (Genesis 2:24), family, and caring community. It is a father who works hard to protect and provide for his wife and children. It is a mother who tries hard to make a home where children are raised with loving discipline and taught how to respect themselves and others. It is a community that recognizes desperate situations and personally provides hopeful solutions.

This is why you see Lutherans who love life teaching purity and holy living in the home and school, preaching about the sanctity of human life and the sacredness of Biblical marriage from the pulpit, mentoring a troubled and lonely teen, or building a network of caring individuals who step in when the going gets tough.

**Third**, we see the choice of abortion as uncreative. Satan, the evil one, hates the life that God creates. He knows that each new human life is a creation of God and has the potential to make a positive difference in the world. A so-called "imperfect" baby challenges us to higher virtues, and our love for the "least of these" makes the world a safer place for everyone. Satan, however, wants us to be overwhelmed by





the difficulties of life so he whispers in a woman's ear, "Did God really say that abortion, just this once, would be so bad?" Satan wants to snatch away any opportunity to be creative with God. He is always working to steal away hope and then laughs when any of us sinners sink into despair. But, God loves life! His great love for life includes the procreative act between a husband and wife. **"Adam named his wife Eve because she would become the mother of all the living"** (Genesis 3:20). Because God is the Giver of life, He also promises to provide all that is necessary to care for that life.

This is why you see Lutherans who love life stepping into the voting booth to vote for leaders who promise to build a culture of life as opposed to promoting the death culture of *Roe v. Wade*, equipping teens to respect themselves and others, explaining the consequences of unmarried sex which include incurable sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and teenage pregnancy, encouraging young men and women to practice "saved sex" and offering them support in doing so, and challenging men and women to raise the standard of behavior.

**Fourth**, we believe there is hope after abortion and every other sin. Satan tempts a woman to think that abortion is her only choice. But, after the choice to kill her child has been made, Satan heaps on the guilt by hissing, "How could God ever forgive you?" Satan wants all people involved in the abortion decision—the woman who failed to welcome her child, the doctor who performed the risky surgical procedure, the man who paid for it, the family who encouraged it, the church who failed to offer options of life, and the community who defended "a woman's right to choose"—to become weighted down with the burden of their guilt. But God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to bear the burden of every sin. As so poignantly illustrated in the movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, Jesus suffered and died for our sins. But, He did not stay in the grave! Jesus conquered Satan, sin, and death! Jesus is alive today and stands with open arms beside every man, woman, and child. He invites us all to follow His path of life. His love warns us away from trouble and gives us strength to endure. His forgiveness is new every morning!

This is why you see forgiven Lutherans who love life excitedly sharing the message of hope through LFL's abortion healing ministry called Word of Hope (888-217-8679), transforming the culture by mentoring across the generations through Titus 2 for Life ([www.titus2-4life.org](http://www.titus2-4life.org)), helping congregations and communities welcome people with abortion in their past, and faithfully working to make the reasons for abortion and infanticide disappear into the darkness from which these ideas came.

The journalist for Reuters News Service asked, "What's your plan?" You and I have an answer! It is a plan of action. It is a plan that respects the sanctity of each human life –

soon to be born or already born. It is a plan that leads away from despair toward hope. It is a plan that involves rolling up our own sleeves to help. It is a plan of faithfulness even on the dangerous detours and bumpy roads of life.

The journalist for Reuters News Service appears pessimistic, uncreative, fearful, and hopeless. But, I am not bound to choices of death. I have a God of life! In Jesus Christ, I am optimistic, creative, trusting, and filled with hope!

In Jesus Christ, you are, too!

*(Linda Bartlett was President of LFL from 1995 to February of 2004.)*

## Thumbs Down on *Kinsey*

For decades, scientific researcher Alfred Kinsey was synonymous with sex—the definitive source for data on Americans' sexual habits.

Kinsey's fame is expected to grow in November with the release of a film entitled *Kinsey*.

One pro-life group has already issued its review of *Kinsey*—and it's far from favorable.

Concerned Women for America says the movie, starring actor Liam Neeson, overlooks "the stunning fact that much of Kinsey's work has been revealed as fraud."

The organization notes that Kinsey's work has served to advance not only promiscuity but abortion as well.

As a result, CWA has launched a special web page entitled "The Truth About Alfred Kinsey." The web page ([www.cwfa.org/kinsey.asp](http://www.cwfa.org/kinsey.asp)) is designed to expose some of the myths surrounding Kinsey's research. It includes a number of articles showing how Kinsey exploited children for sex in order to further the aims of leading pro-abortion groups.

"From abortion to homosexuality to pornography, Kinsey's research has been cited as proof that 'science' has done away with societal restraints based on religious beliefs," CWA states. "Kinsey's conclusions paved the way for condom-based sex education in public (and many private) schools and furthered the agenda of pro-abortion groups like Planned Parenthood and the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL)."

CWA states, "The core of the Kinsey philosophy is anti-marriage, anti-woman, anti-family, and anti-children."

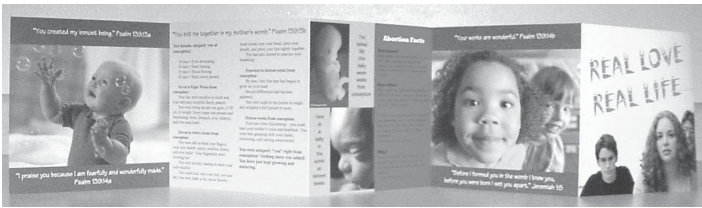
In her book, *Kinsey: Crimes and Consequences*, Dr. Judith Reisman argued that Kinsey denigrated motherhood.

In their reports on the sexual conduct of women, the Kinsey team "gave no data on normal marital birth, no data on normal mothers," Reisman wrote. Dr. Reisman's website is address is: [www.drjudithreisman.com](http://www.drjudithreisman.com).

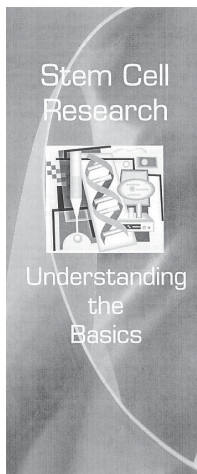
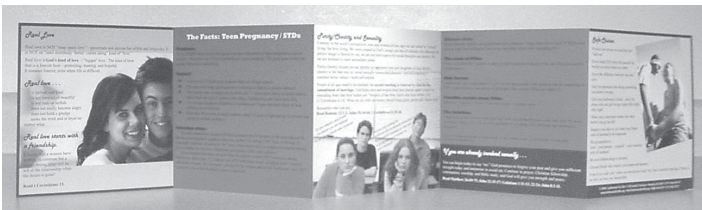
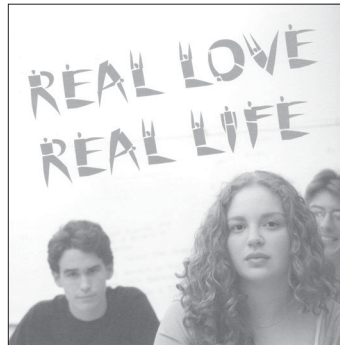
Also see: [www.family.org/topics/a0034455.cfm](http://www.family.org/topics/a0034455.cfm)

*(SMaria Gallagher, Life News.com, 9/7)*

# For Life Resources from Lutherans For Life!

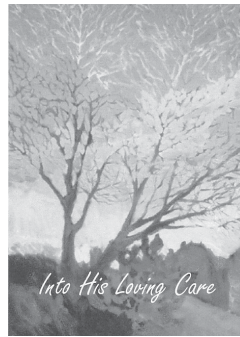
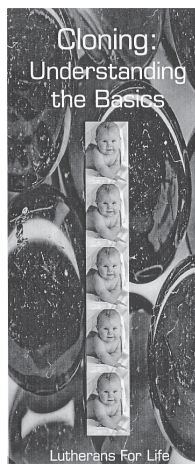


**Real Love / Real Life** - This unique 30" x 6" 10-panel fold out brochure covers fetal development, abortion facts, love and friendship, teen pregnancy, STDs, purity/chastity and sexuality, and safe choices. **Item 615T. \$0.50 each plus S & H. FULL COLOR**



**Stem Cell Research: Understanding the Basics** - It is important for the Christian to understand that God's Word does have something to say about embryonic stem cell research (ESCR). To understand how God's Word applies to this controversial issue, however, a basic understanding of the biology involved is necessary first. So welcome to Embryonic Stem Cell Biology 101! **Item #1000T. \$0.30 each plus S & H. FULL COLOR**

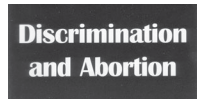
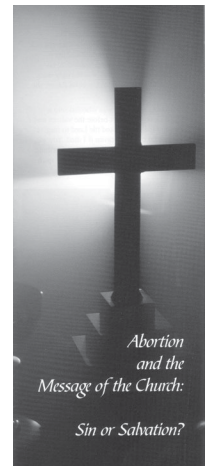
**Cloning: Understanding the Basics** - The cloning of Dolly the sheep is old news. Now there is talk about cloning humans to "replace" a dead child or to provide body parts for transplant. There is even a cult that sees cloning as the means to eternal life. The vast majority of people are opposed to such cloning. But what about cloning human embryos to obtain stem cells in order to treat disease? **Item 1001T. \$0.30 each plus S & H. FULL COLOR**



**Into His Loving Care** - This unique booklet, by Linda Bartlett (and featuring new artwork and a full color cover), is dedicated to all the mothers and fathers who have lost a child through miscarriage or stillbirth. "It may seem as if God is far away at such times of sorrow, but He knows every sparrow that falls. How much more He must care for you and me . . . and our little ones."

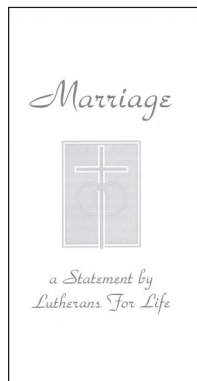
**Item 902B. \$2.00 each plus S & H.**

**Abortion and the Message of the Church: Sin or Salvation** - Dr. James Lamb shows that throughout history the Church has called abortion sin. Only recently have some started calling abortion "salvation"—a way out of a difficult situation. But it is not a way out. It only creates guilt and despair to which the Church must apply its most powerful message, the Gospel of Jesus. **Now in full color! Item 205T. \$0.25 each plus S & H - FULL COLOR (Also available in Braille at no charge.)**



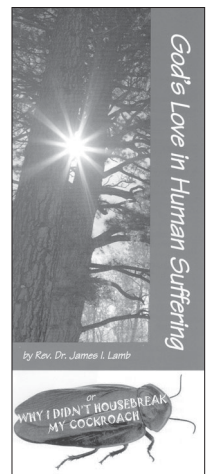
**Discrimination and Abortion**  
Abortion denies children basic civil rights

**Discrimination and Abortion** - Abortion denies children their civil rights and the basic right to life. Are African-American babies at greater risk of such discrimination? Some of the data would suggest that they are! Dynamic new layout! **Item 116T. \$0.25 each plus S & H.**

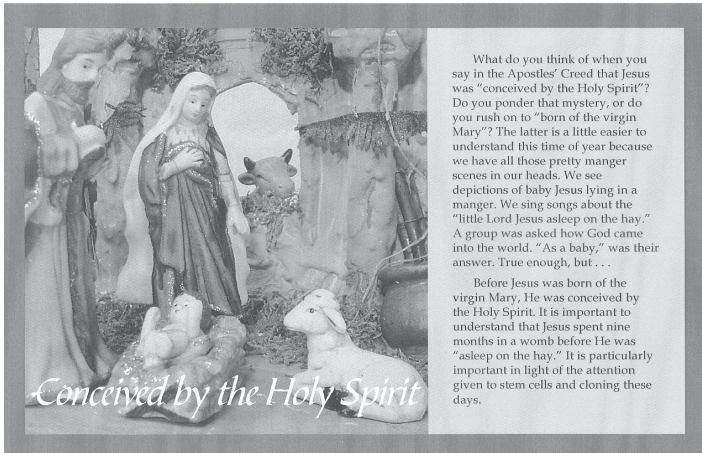


**God's Love in Human Suffering - or why I didn't housebreak my cockroach** - Dr. James Lamb discusses the blessings of suffering. **Item 805A. \$0.25 each plus S & H - FULL COLOR**

**Marriage - A Statement by Lutherans For Life** - What God intended marriage to be in the beginning, He still intends marriage to be. **Item 905T. \$0.25 ea. plus S & H.**



# Christmas Resources from Lutherans For Life!



What do you think of when you say in the Apostles' Creed that Jesus was "conceived by the Holy Spirit"? Do you ponder that mystery, or do you rush on to "born of the virgin Mary"? The latter is a little easier to understand this time of year because we have all those pretty manger scenes in our heads. We see depictions of baby Jesus lying in a manger. We sing songs about the "little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay." A group was asked how God came into the world. "As a baby," was their answer. True enough, but . . .

Before Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. It is important to understand that Jesus spent nine months in a womb before He was "asleep on the hay." It is particularly important in light of the attention given to stem cells and cloning these days.

**Bulletin Insert (full color):**

**NEW! Conceived by the Holy Spirit** - Before Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. It is important to understand that Jesus spent nine months in a womb before He was "asleep on the hay." It is particularly important in light of the attention given to stem cells and cloning these days.

**Note:** "Life News" subscribers will be receiving this insert in place of a December edition of "Life News."

**Item 1005 BI. \$0.07 ea. plus S & H**

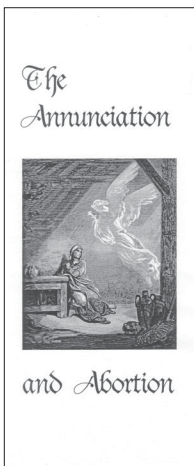
**Brochures**

**NEW! Joseph and His Rib** – Joseph, a young man from the house of David, was probably like every other soon-to-be husband—nervous, but excited all the same. That is until his fiancée came to him with shocking news. Mary was pregnant, but Joseph was not the father. The world, as Joseph knew it, had collapsed around him. He felt betrayed, hurt, angry. Break the engagement and walk away from this woman, whispered his pride. Everything had changed. Plans were ruined.



Reputation was at stake. Uncharted territory lay ahead. At this precarious moment in his life, Joseph had nothing to hang on to . . . nothing, that is, except the Word of the Lord. By Linda Bartlett.

**Item 904T. \$0.25 ea. plus S & H**



**The Annunciation and Abortion** – A review of the Annunciation and Visitation of Mary and the Incarnation of Jesus Christ offers historical witness of the Church and helps us answer the question, "When does life begin?" By Rev. Edward Fehskens.

**Item 202T. \$0.25 ea. plus S & H**

**Bulletin Insert:**

**We Are Called to Be Great Lovers** – A bulletin insert, especially suitable for use during the Christmas season, featuring artist Ray Martens' popular work, "Children Gathered at the Manger," and text by Rev. Ed Fehskens, former executive director of Lutherans For Life.



Rev. Fehskens relates the story of a little boy with Down Syndrome who, during the Christmas play, said cheerily to Mary and Joseph, "Come on in. I've been waiting for you," instead of the expected, "no room." He goes on to share that, "Christians are called to be great lovers. Lovers of life.

Lovers of those in need. Lovers of children—born and preborn. Lovers of those who have told or accepted the lie and sinned. Lovers who reach out to those struggling with or snared by the lie of abortion. It is a lover who says:

*'Come on in. I've been waiting for you.'*

**Item 101BI. \$0.07 ea. plus S & H**

**Print:**

**NEW! Children Gathered at the Manger** – This print is an 8" x 10", suitable for framing, version of the artwork from the *We Are Called to Be Great Lovers* bulletin insert.

Printed on heavy white matte paper. The story, *We Are Called to Be Great Lovers*, from the bulletin insert is printed on the back of this print.

**Note: Frame not included.**



**Item 1617. \$4.00 ea. plus S & H**

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## Creation Matters!

By Ed Szeto, LFL Director of Outreach

How did the universe begin? Creation? Evolution? How about theistic evolution? What should we believe? How do we know which is true? Does it really even matter? Why does Lutherans For Life (LFL) care about creation?

We are not here to enter into the creation/evolution debate. LFL believes in a six literal-day creation, i.e., God used six 24-hour days to create the universe, as told to us in the Book of Genesis. Extensive apologetics on creation, and information on how the geologic evidence supports creation over evolution, can be obtained from Answers in Genesis (www.answersingenesis.org) and from the Institute for Creation Research (www.icr.org).

LFL cares about creation because all of creation is about life! Everything God created was called into being to sustain, provide for, and enhance human life; and human life was given all of creation to care for. God had a special “hands-on” involvement in the first human lives (Genesis 2:7, 22). This hands-on creative work of God continues through the biological process He has set into place (Psalm 139:13-14). Just as He was involved in the beginning of the first human lives, so He is involved in the beginning of every human life. The Genesis account of creation and the subsequent fall into sin set the stage for our need for redemption. The account points us to our Redeemer (Genesis 3:15) and the re-creation God would work through Him.

### Creation and the Preborn

LFL cares about creation because it has an impact on the life issues of our time. First and foremost, it means that the preborn are precious in God’s eyes. We are to value and protect that life. The psalmist tells us in Psalm 139 that God saw you and knew you even before you “looked” like a baby. From the moment of conception, you were a human life who God

created and for whom Jesus died. We must defend against the assaults on their lives through abortion-on-demand, embryonic stem cell research, and cloning.

### Creation and Persons with Disabilities

Another creation based life issue is persons with mental and physical disabilities. Since we were all created by God and Jesus Christ died for the entire world, our value is not based on what we have done, what we are doing, or what we can do. Our value is based on what God has done, what God continues to do, and what God will do for us. So, for those with disabilities, we need to remember that Jesus calls us to care for the sick and that what we do to our neighbors, we do also unto Him (Matthew 25:36b, 40).

### Creation and the Elderly

What about the elderly? Are we to ignore them and tell them that they have nothing to contribute to society? No! Rather, God says, **“Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God.”** (Leviticus 19:32). By respecting and honoring the elderly, we show reverence to God. Since He created us and redeemed us, life is precious at all ages.

### Creation and Euthanasia

Creation is tied to physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia. Should we be in control of when our lives on earth end? God has a plan for each one of us, a plan that was made before we were born! **“All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be”** (Psalm 139:16). King Solomon realized that, **“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die”** (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2). But should we fear death or the unknown? Should we be afraid when confronted with a terminal illness? No, we can sing along with the psalmist, **“But (as for me), I trust in You, O LORD; I say, ‘You are my God.’ My times are in Your hands”** (Psalm 31:14-15).



## Creation and Sexual Purity

What does creation have to do with sexual purity? Because we were created by God and were redeemed by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, Paul writes that **“The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body”** (1 Corinthians 6:13). The precious gift of sexuality was intended by God for the marriage covenant. By participating in sex outside of this setting, we are participating in one form of sexual immorality. Paul continues in 1 Corinthians, **“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body”** (6:19-20).

Sexual purity is more than just abstaining from something, it is a lifestyle. It means to treat the other gender with respect. It means for guys to defend gals, not to treat them as objects to be won or played with. In this lifestyle, we should also consider modesty of dress. Jesus said, **“You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart”** (Matthew 5:27-28). By dressing in a revealing and suggestive manner, you are causing your brother or sister in Christ to be tempted. This temptation will eventually lead to full-blown sin. So, in deference to your brothers and sisters in Christ, **“Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother’s way”** (Romans 14:13).

## Creation and Marriage

Another life issue based in creation is the marriage covenant between a man and a woman. When God brought Eve to Adam, **“The man said, ‘This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.’ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh”** (Genesis 2:23-24). God intended marriage to unite a man and a woman together as “one flesh,” that is, an inseparable union. God intended this union to be the context for His procreative process.

LFL cares about creation. Understanding creation and what God has done in Christ to re-create us, motivates us to treat human life with dignity and respect. We become this world’s salt and light when we protect those who are the most vulnerable and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. We reflect our faith when we help carry the burdens of others and when we respect and protect God’s gift of sexuality and marriage. Creation is about life! It gives us a message we can share with others, and it is a message that can make a difference in our society.

## An “Evangelical Crisis”?

from *Answers in Genesis*

**Q: With so many churches around today, why do we hear of a so-called “evangelical crisis”?**

A: The answer’s easy—the churches have lost their foundation.

Some churches feel that all they have to do is address the social needs of their people, instead of teaching them theology and what the Bible says. Other churches claim that telling people they’re sinners is harmful because it gives them “a poor self image.” Some churches have shortened sermons and concentrated on dramas in order to entertain people. Other churches make political issues of everything.

And, there are churches today that no longer preach from the Bible because it’s “too old-fashioned” and not “relevant” anymore. Other churches just preach on topics to make people feel good about themselves, not daring to say anything that might make them feel uncomfortable with their lifestyle.

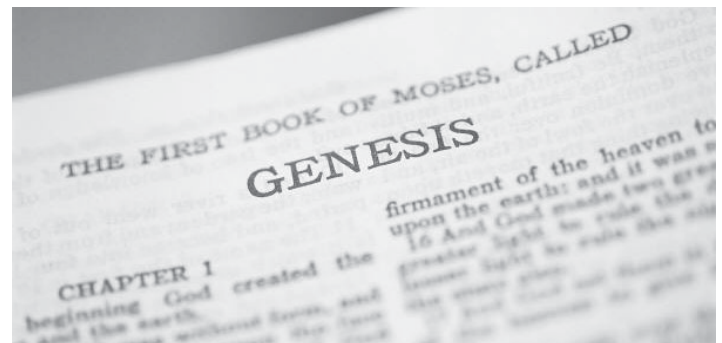
All of these churches have lost sight of the importance of teaching their people what the Bible has to say about our God, our origins, sin and its consequences, and thus the real way to overcome their problems. They fail to teach the foundations that are laid down in the answer book, *Genesis*, that are a key to understanding the rest of the Bible.

(*Answers Update*, 11/13)

### Quotable quote:

“It is apparent that the most straightforward understanding of Genesis, *without regard to the hermeneutical considerations suggested by science*, is that God created the heavens and the earth in six solar days, that man was created on the sixth day, and that death and chaos entered the world after the fall of Adam and Eve, and that all fossils [*sic*—creationists would say “most”] were the result of the catastrophic deluge that spared only Noah’s family and the animals therewith.”

(*Pun, P.P.T., Journal of the American Scientific Affiliation* 39:14, 1987; *emphasis added*.)



## The Question Thinking People Ask

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

Someone almost always asks the question. The most recent was a high school freshman at St. Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, MO. "If we are successfully treating diseases with adult stem cells and there is no success at all with embryonic stem cells, then why is there such a push for embryonic stem cell research?" It is a good logical question, a question thinking people ask.

Thinking people ask it because the evidence is so overwhelming. The last time I checked the score it was 56-0. We are treating 56 diseases in humans with adult stem cells. **(You can check out the exciting successes with adult stem cells at [www.stemcellresearch.org](http://www.stemcellresearch.org).)** We are treating 0 diseases in human beings with embryonic stem cells. From what I read, it also seems clear that cures from embryonic stem cells are not "just around the corner" and people in wheelchairs are not going to be walking around anytime soon because of embryonic stem cell research (ESCR). Dr. David Prentice Professor of Life Sciences at Indiana State University, and Adjunct Professor of Medical and Molecular Genetics for Indiana University School of Medicine, summarizes a paper he wrote on this subject as follows.



*In summary, our current knowledge regarding adult stem cells has expanded greatly over what was known just a few short years ago. Results from both animal studies and early human clinical trials indicate that they have significant capabilities for growth, repair, and regeneration of damaged cells and tissues in the body, akin to a built-in repair kit or maintenance crew that only needs activation and stimulation to accomplish repair of damage. The potential of adult stem cells to impact medicine in this respect is enormous.*

So, thinking people are asking, "What's the big deal with embryonic stem cell research?" Since I get asked that question frequently, when I had opportunity recently, I asked Dr. Prentice that question. His answer was basically the same as I had been giving. He was just more articulate. Here is a summary of the three main reasons for pushing ESCR:

1. Currently at least, ESCR is where the money is. This will increase if more states pass legislation like California's Proposition 71 allocating large amounts of state revenues for cloning and ESCR.

2. The "Publish or Perish" syndrome among researchers keeps ESCR going. Everyone wants to publish in this area. ESCR is where the research began. The versatility of adult stem cells is a more recent development. Researchers are still "locked in" to the initial research model.

3. The "abortion mindset" flavors this discussion in two ways. First, if it is admitted that somehow it is not morally acceptable to do research by destroying human beings at 5 days old, then what would that say about the morality of destroying human beings at 12 weeks or 30 weeks old through abortion? Second, the "flip side" of this is that ESCR claims to bring some good from a bad situation. Embryos frozen in fertility clinics can at least be used for research the argument goes. It is the same argument used to justify harvesting fetal tissue from aborted babies.

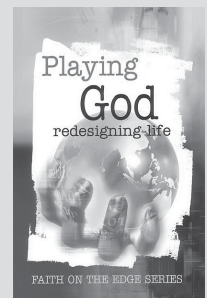
I am glad thinking people are asking this question. We need to continue to educate God's people on the issue of stem cell research so that more questions will be asked and God-pleasing answers will be given.

## Playing God - redesigning life

explores the ethics of:

- DNA manipulation
- Stem cell research
- Cloning
- And more!

As you progress through this 6-session study, you will learn how these scientific "advances" hold up in light of God's Word. You'll discover that God has designs for every life.



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■ Costa Rican President Abel Pacheco gave a spirited defense of the right to life before the United Nations General Assembly on September 23. The notable speech called for international protection for life “from the moment of conception.” President Pacheco also told the UN, “As we have a duty to protect the oppressed and persecuted, we also have a duty to protect those who do not have yet a voice. In particular, there is a pressing need to agree on a normative framework, internationally binding, to uphold human dignity from the moment of conception. Necessarily, to defend life is to defend the very essence of man itself: all the promises, joys, and hopes of the human being.” Regarding cloning, President Pacheco said, “I believe in science within ethical limits. As a medical doctor, I reject human cloning while I firmly support research on adult stem cells, which does not present the same ethical and legal problems that cloning does. I invite you all to join us in our efforts to adopt an international convention to ban all forms of human cloning.” (*LifeSiteNews.com*, 9/24)

■ Alison Davis, coordinator of the disability rights group No Less Human, has condemned the recent decision by the British Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority to allow researchers to clone human embryos. In a letter to *The Telegraph*, Ms. Davis described cloning as “highly unethical and completely unnecessary,” contesting the widespread assumption that disabled people support it. She writes: “Many journalists have described human cloning technology as ‘exciting.’ I cannot share this excitement at science that creates one human being only to destroy him or her for my putative benefit.” (*The Telegraph*, 8/14; *SPUC*, 8/16)



■ In a related story, a new study by American and Italian doctors claims that screening embryos using pre-implantation diagnosis does not threaten the health of the developed baby. A spokeswoman for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) commented: “It is a little ironic to suggest that pre-implantation genetic diagnosis does not threaten the embryo’s health when the whole point of it is to destroy ‘unsuitable’ embryos. This research is only true for those embryos that are tested and found to measure up to a pre-determined set of criteria.” (*Times Online*, *SPUC*, 8/18)

■ The Italian health minister has caused outrage amongst pro-abortion groups in Italy by stating that abortion is basically murder. Mr Girolamo Sirchia’s comments came during an interview with Italy’s on line news service AGI. He said: “Before resorting to a violent and bloody act that suppresses life, substantially murder, contrary to my morals, there are other ways to act.” (*LifeSiteNews.com*, *SPUC*, 8/13)

■ The Cardinal of Scotland has condemned a new sexual health strategy as “state sponsored sexual abuse” of children. Cardinal Keith O’Brien described the strategy as “one of the biggest challenges to the morality of our nation in a generation,” warning that sex education could be extended to the under fives and that contraceptives and abortions would be made available to schoolchildren without parental knowledge. The Scottish Parent Teacher Council responded angrily to the Cardinal’s protest, saying that Church leaders should have “kept their mouths shut” on the issue. (*The Guardian*, 8/30; *The Scottish Herald*, *SPUC*, 8/31)

■ *The Times* of London has reported that couples are getting around China’s one child policy by falsifying the records of the second child to give the impression of having had twins. The article claims that atrocities against families who break the one child policy such as infanticide, forced abortion, and mass sterilization are “rare” and that the Chinese authorities may have to change the policy, particularly in light of the rapidly ageing population. Anthony Ozimic, SPUC’s political secretary, commented: “Media in the West have been reporting for many years that the one child policy is ‘about to change,’ that human rights violations under the policy are ‘rare abuses,’ and that the policy has now been ‘relaxed.’ These reports have always been proven to be false, because they are a combination of Chinese Communist propaganda and the Western liberal media’s sympathy for population control.” (*The Times*, *SPUC*, 11/8)

■ The *South China Morning Post* reports that one-third of all pregnancies in Hong Kong end in abortion. Analysts say the number is probably even higher, because it does not take into account the illegal abortions committed in mainland China, where many women go to ensure anonymity. According to the Post, 2001 statistics revealed 20,235 babies were aborted v. 49,144 live births in the same year. Abortion thus ended the lives of 29.2% of Hong Kong babies that year. Other world stats on pregnancies ending in abortion: Russia, 60%; Romania, 50%; U.S., 24.4%; Canada, 24.3%; Australia, 23.7%. (*LifeSiteNews.com*, 8/9)

■ Belgians from the ruling party are seeking to expand the country’s euthanasia laws to include terminally ill children and teenagers. In addition, the senators seeking the change also want the euthanasia law, enacted in 2002 despite strong physician opposition, to include a provision for patients to kill themselves with the assistance of a doctor. (*LifeSiteNews.com*, 9/9)

## 2004 National Conference!

*In the Beginning . . . was Life!* was the theme as more than 200 Lutherans gathered, November 12-14, in the Cincinnati, Ohio, area from across the United States and Canada for the national conference of Lutherans For Life (LFL)—commemorating our 25th anniversary this year.

Dr. Jean Garton, co-founder and President emeritus of Lutherans For Life, gave the Friday night keynote address. In that address she stated that LFL has spent these past 25 years “convincing in love . . . listening to the gentle whisper of the Holy Spirit.”

Dr. Garton said that instead of trying to be truthful, many who promote abortion try to “disguise what is happening.” We need to guard and hold fast to the truth.

According to Dr. Garton, many people still do not understand that abortion is a “billion dollar killing industry” or “what abortion is and does.” LFL is “committed to the truth.”

She shared how both the “Roe” of *Roe vs. Wade* and the “Doe” of *Doe vs. Bolton*—the two landmark legal cases that legalized abortion in the United States for all nine months of



Dr. Jean Garton (l) with LFL President Diane Schroeder.



Rev. Michael Hackbardt of God's Word to the Nations extends greetings to Dr. Garton. Rev. Hackbardt has been instrumental in the *GOD'S WORD For Life* Bible project.

pregnancy for any reason or no reason—now speak out against abortion. “Truth: It’s a beautiful thing,” she said.

Following Dr. Garton’s keynote, LFL President Diane Schroeder and Executive Director Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb spoke on *Building on the Beginning—LFL’s Future*.

Dr. Lamb said that “LFL has been growing to meet the changing world . . . God has certainly blessed LFL with resources to grow.”

In implementing a newly adopted strategic plan, LFL hopes to produce new materials in a variety of formats, including a life issue curriculum for Sunday schools, Vacation Bible schools, and high schools.

LFL President Diane Schroeder said that for 25 years LFL has made a difference in the lives of Lutherans through witnessing, educating, and speaking the truth. “We have been the hand of Christ as we worked with caring pregnancy centers . . . [and] shown compassion to thousands of men and women burdened with grief who bought the lie that abortion is a quick and easy fix.”

Dr. Lamb encouraged us to “redouble our efforts until all life is accorded the dignity given it by God.”

Saturday’s sessions included presentations on the incredible complexity of human life, the recent election, marriage, and genetics.

Sunday featured a Bible study and worship service based on the themes *The Beginning and the Value of Life* and *The Beginning and the Word of Life* as found in John 1:1-5.

On Sunday morning, Dr. Lamb, in his Bible study, *The Beginning and the Value of Life*, said, “The early chapters of Genesis are an essential foundation to the value of human life. If we are a little higher than the apes rather than a ‘little lower than the heavenly beings’ (Psalm 8:5), then let’s disband LFL, go home, and join the SPCA!” The Bible study looked at six “beginnings” in the book of Genesis and how these beginnings give special value to human life.

During Sunday morning’s worship service, Dr. Lamb preached on John 1:1-5 using the theme *The Beginning and the Word of Life*. His sermon was about “Jesus the Word of Life” who was there at the beginning of time and who brought a new beginning in time. The thrust of the sermon can be seen in Dr. Lamb’s summary statement, “The Word of Life—in the beginning of time He gave value to human life through His creating hands. The Word of Life—He brought a new beginning in time giving value to human life through His redeeming hands. The Word of Life—He shines in our lives and in our darkness bringing light and hope. The Word of Life—may He shine through us and help others to know their value and the value of every human life.”

To order conference tapes and CDs contact: Blueprint Tapes, (765) 832-9971; [www.blueprinttapes.com](http://www.blueprinttapes.com).

The 2005 Conference is set for November 11-13 at the Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet in St. Louis, Missouri.

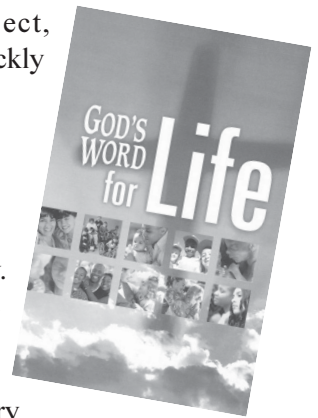


## Pre-Order GOD'S WORD For Life!

LFL's pro-life Bible project, *GOD'S WORD For Life*, is quickly moving forward!

*GOD'S WORD For Life* is being developed in cooperation with God's Word to the Nations ([www.godsword.org](http://www.godsword.org)).

Their executive director, Rev. Michael Hackbardt, says "this unique endeavor will produce an exceptional, comprehensive study Bible . . . that will be used by every Christian involved in every aspect of the pro-life movement."



**Pre-order your copy today and save! Orders will be shipped when available in the spring of 2005. Pre-order pricing subject to end without notice.**

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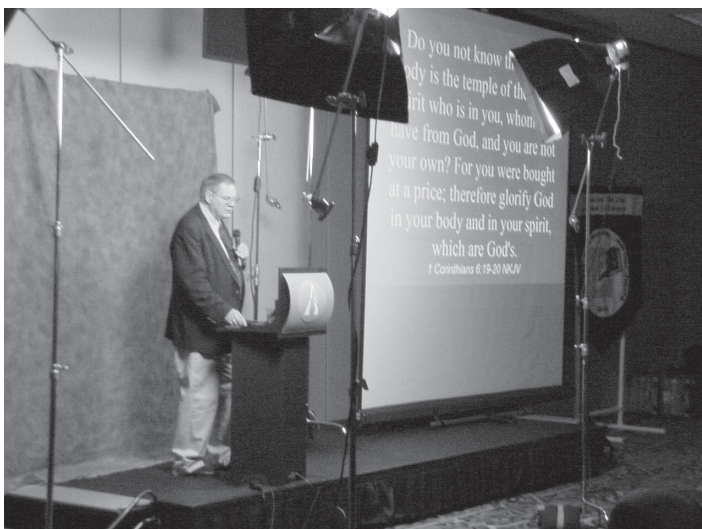
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Dr. Garton with Mary Grace Fehskens. Mary Grace was the baby in the basket in LFL's 1992 Life Sunday insert (above, left), which Dr. Garton featured on-screen to close her keynote presentation. Finding out about her early efforts at "modeling" came as a surprise to Mary Grace who is now 13 and in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. She is the daughter of former LFL Executive Director Rev. Ed Fehskens, who was a workshop leader and served as liturgist at the conference worship service.



Dr. David Menton gave two well-received presentations at the Conference: *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made* and *Marvels of the Human Body*. His presentations were taped by Answers In Genesis and should be available on DVD in the spring of 2005.



## Life Thoughts in the Church Year (from *Lutheran Worship*)

### January 2 – First Sunday after Christmas

In the beginning there was life. Jesus was the source of life in the beginning of time. His birth reminds us that He is the source of new life in time. The assurance of new life in Him is our light as we live in a sin-darkened world. It is the light of life, not death, that we turn to as a solution to our problems.

### January 9 – The Baptism of our Lord

God is the source of all life. He gives it breath (Isaiah 42:5). In His baptism (Matthew 3:13-17), Jesus identifies with sinful human life that He might give new “breath” through His life-giving Spirit in our baptisms. The breath of life from God—what value it gives to our lives.

### January 16 – Second Sunday after the Epiphany

The “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29) was formed in the womb to be such a servant (Isaiah 49:5). Formed for a purpose! The same could be said of Paul (1 Corinthians 1:1) and the other Apostles (John 1:35-41). The same could be said of us all (Psalm 139:13-16). Abortion and assisted suicide not only take away God-given life, they take away the God-given purpose for that life.

### January 23 – Third Sunday after the Epiphany

The “good news of the kingdom” (Matthew 4:23) is the light shining on those living in “the shadow of death” (Matthew 4:16). On this Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, we take time to remember the darkness of death that abortion has brought upon our land. But more importantly we let the positive message of the good news shine into this darkness. The Gospel motivates people to stay away from the darkness. The Gospel brings freedom to those trapped in the darkness.

### January 30 – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

The idea of humility pervades the readings today. We “walk humbly” with our God (Micah 6:1-8). We “boast in the Lord” as He works His wonders through ordinary people (1 Corinthians 1:31). We receive the blessings and promises given in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12). Such humility forms the basis for our relationship with one another. It is from a position of humility that we boldly proclaim God’s truth even when that truth may trouble a conscience or spark resistance.

### February 6 – The Transfiguration of our Lord

Jesus left the glory of the Transfiguration for the glory of the cross. Jesus laid aside the glory that was His very essence to earn the glory that would come from His suffering, death, and resurrection. Because of the glory of Jesus’ cross, we will one day be in the presence of the glory of God. It is the promise of the glory to come, not glory now, that enables us to be patient in our suffering.

### February 13 – First Sunday in Lent

God created a world of life and for life (Genesis 2:7-9). Death is not what God intended. Death came as a result of sin (Romans 5:12). Death is not our friend or a solution to our problems. Death is our enemy. We have a friend in the Lord of Life who has defeated Satan and death. He brings the life that God intended. We can turn to Him no matter what the problem.

### February 20 – Second Sunday in Lent

Jesus encounter with the Samaritan woman (John 4:5-26) presents a model for dealing with those who support the choice of death or who have chosen death themselves. Break the barrier and begin where they are. Be gentle but bold with the probing of the law. Offer the hope and help of the living water of Jesus Christ.

### February 27 – Third Sunday in Lent

What a tragedy—a baby born blind (John 9:1-41). The neighbors must have talked. “Why would God allow this? Is it punishment for some sin? Maybe this child should never have been born.” Never born? That would have been the real tragedy. God had a very specific purpose for this blind baby. He was born blind to give glory to God on the day Jesus healed him! God gives purpose to every life.

### March 6 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1). These words bring sweet music to sinners’ ears and peace to sinners’ hearts. Those with hearts weighed down by the sin of abortion, however, find it hard to hear the sweetness of these words. Be specific. Apply these words to specific sins and include the sin of abortion.

### March 13 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Nothing could be as hopeless as the dead, sun dried, and disconnected bones in Ezekiel’s valley vision (Ezekiel 37:1-14). “Can these bones live?” The obvious and reasonable answer is, “Don’t be silly!” God isn’t silly. He is the powerful Lord of Life. He brought life to these dead bones and, in Christ, He has brought life to the “dead bones” of our sin dried bodies. If God can bring life into such deadness, then there is no valley in our lives too deep or too dark or too dry to be without hope.

### March 20 – Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

Jesus came into Jerusalem as a king carried by a donkey. Jesus went out of Jerusalem as a criminal carrying a cross. But His kingship did not diminish. His Kingdom is not of this world. His children are not of this world. But while we live in it, we are assured through Christ’s passion that nothing can ever diminish God’s love for life.

### March 27 – The Resurrection of our Lord

In today’s Epistle (Colossians 3:1-4), Paul reminds us that we “have been raised with Christ.” He also points ahead to the resurrection of the dead at the end of time when we will all “appear with him in glory.” The proximity of Easter this year to the Annunciation (March 25) gives opportunity to point back to when it all started. Jesus, whose resurrection we celebrate and participate in, began the redemptive process when He was “conceived by the Holy Spirit.”

## Be a Part of Groundbreaking Christian Work In Siberia!

Russia has one of the highest abortion rates in the world. (On average, Russian women have six and seven abortions during their lifetime.)



But here's the good news: You can make a difference in the lives of many Russian women who have never heard the Gospel and who will learn the love of Christ through the merciful assistance of the Lutheran Church in Siberia and through loving, Christian counseling from a woman named Gloria Vladimirova.

Gloria will serve as the licensed counselor on the staff of a new pro-life women's shelter being developed by St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Novosibirsk, Siberia.

Gloria says, "This program is very close to me because I was in the same situation. When I was one month pregnant with my daughter, my husband left the family because of adultery. I had to give birth by myself. This is very hard psychologically. This is why all the problems of single mothers are so close to me personally."

Will you help cover the deaconess education scholarship costs for Gloria at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana?

Tuition, books, room and board, healthcare, and travel expenses are estimated to be approximately \$37,738 per year.

With your help we can bless Russia with this valuable resource—a woman named Gloria.

For more information or to offer financial support, please call Concordia Theological Seminary at (260) 452-2210 or e-mail [deaconess@mail.ctsfw.edu](mailto:deaconess@mail.ctsfw.edu) or log on to the web at [www.ctsfw.edu/deaconess](http://www.ctsfw.edu/deaconess).

Will you help this life-affirming project?

## Leadership/Speaker Training Seminar

A one-day seminar designed for those who are interested in learning how to speak for Lutherans For Life on life issues.

April 30 • Nevada, Iowa

June 25 • Sioux Falls, South Dakota

October 1 • (TBA), Wisconsin



Please contact Edward Szeto at **888-364-LIFE** to discuss other possible locations and dates.

## Spotlight on Lutherans For Life

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

**Dick Bahlman** by Rev. & Mrs. Don Meyer; **Jack Bolduan** by Bernadyne Herndon; **Marlys Bridge** by Kenneth Peters; **Amber Brownmiller** by Rev. & Mrs. Don Meyer; **Betty Buchheimer** by Fred & Elaine Lyons; **Susan Bussanmas** by Rev. & Mrs. Donald Meyer; **Margaret Dannen** by Rick & Jennie Dawson; **Elizabeth DeKock** by Edith Armbrecht; **Ed Engel** by Doug & Lynette Auch; **Arlene Enger** by Jay & Jeanne MacKay; **Gerhardt & Orlean Erdmann** by Elisabeth A. Newell; **Leona Erickson** by Rev. & Mrs. Don Meyer; **Mabel Fleisch** by Douglas & Cynthia Ascoli, D. Ashley & Margaret Bartsch, Michael & Marsha Baebler, Angeles & Mariano Bello, Dave Burmeister family, Dietitians and Dietetic Technicians & Staff of Nutrition Services at St. John's Mercy Medical Center, Michael & Kimberly Eggerman, Morris & Joyce Huelskoetter, Lera Koenig, Mr. & Mrs. Norbert Loebs, David & Christine Stratmann, Mr. & Mrs. Leo Stuckemeyer, Raymond & Elaine Stuckemeyer, Rev. & Mrs. R. Walquist, Dale & Shirley Wachtel, Walter & Doris Wendte, Susan Wilschetz; **Edwin Geery** by Arthur & Lillian Johnson; **Daniel Giese** by Ed & Esther Oehme; **Raymond Gluesing** by Daniel & Sheryl Zinda; **Joy Haaland** by Erma Ockenga; **Helen Herold** by Alpha-Omega LFL Chapter #76; Vic & Geri Schulz; **Lucille Ihling** by Alpha-Omega LFL Chapter #76; **Adelia Kaestner** by Helen Kaestner; **Elsie Kleinschmidt** by Central Connecticut LFL Chapter #204; **Marie Kruse** by Edith Armbrecht; **Ray Leo** by Allan & Donna Benson; **Jim Lincoln** by Doug & Lynette Auch; **Cliff Nook** by Rick & Jennie Dawson; **Lester & Beth Petersen** by Joan C. Walz; **Lloyd Reiman** by Karel Reiman; **Dorothy Robertson** by Hugo & Muriel Armbrecht, Lucille Hunzelman; **Alice Schaefer** by Dennis & Elaine West; **Jean Seible** by Elena Underwager; **Gerold Vanderlinden** by Eugene & Shirley Jandrey

### Lutherans For Life thanks all those who have given Donations in Thanksgiving/Honor of:

**Benjamin** (new grandson) by Rev. Rollin & Mrs. Betty Kuznik; **Ramona G. Bergdolt & Rev. Phillip A. Baerwolf** (marriage) by Rev. & Mrs. H. L. Biermann; **Amelia Jane Brand** (birth of) by Rev. & Mrs. Adrian Sherrill; **Joan Grotelueschen** (birthday) by Capt. Mark & Mrs. Alison Grotelueschen; **Rev. John & Mrs. Helen Konz** (60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary) by Mr. & Mrs. Mike Benton, Mr. & Mrs. Neil Hoecker, Mr. & Mrs. George Chapa, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Look, Rev. & Mrs. Marion Parker, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Marshall; **Mr. & Mrs. John Smith** (50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary) by Ed & Esther Oehme; **Vivian Specht & Chet Specht** by Rev. & Mrs. Don Meyer; **Andrea, Mark & Katherine Tellier & Caleb Sherrill** (birthdays) by Rev. & Mrs. Adrian Sherrill & children

**Our Mission . . .** To witness to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God. LFL has 15 state federations, 150 local chapters, and 745 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.

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

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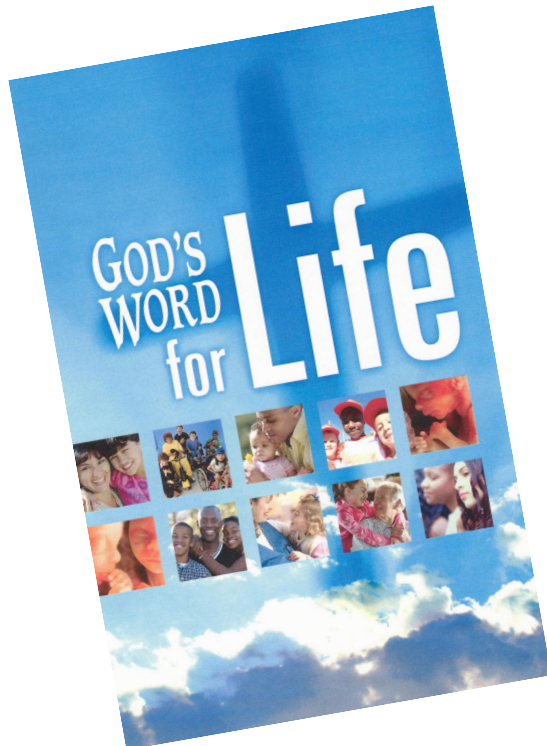
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