

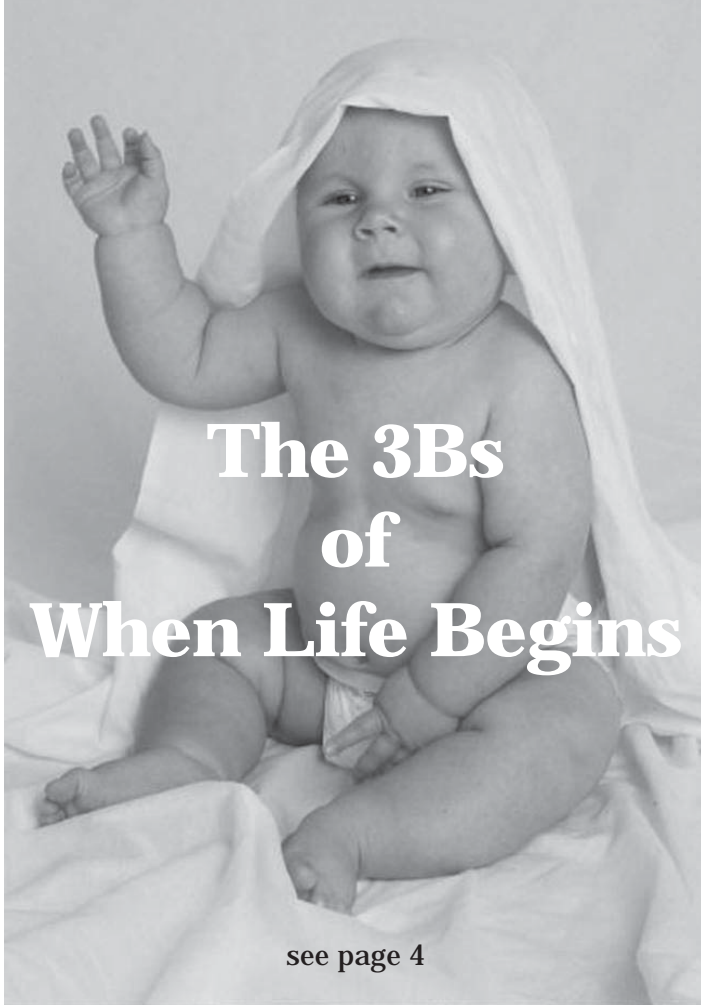
# LifeDate



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

FALL 2003

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



## The 3Bs of When Life Begins

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**“When does human life begin?”**

**Is it really all that complicated?  
Let's get back to some basics.**

**Biology,  
Bible, and  
Baptism**

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## United We Move!

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

You will see it on bumper stickers, windows, and billboards – United We Stand. It is a good slogan. Whether a country or the Church or a pro-life organization, it is necessary to be united to stand against threatening evils. But unity promotes more than just standing against. It promotes moving forward. “United We Move” was the theme of our August Retreat, in Iowa Falls, with the LFL National Board of Directors and our State Federation Presidents (pictured below).



At the retreat, we first reviewed the basis for our unity by looking at LFL’s Core Values. These Core Values show the uniqueness of Lutherans For Life as a pro-life organization.

### Lutherans For Life Core Values . . .

1. God’s Word informs and God’s Spirit empowers our work and witness. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 5:14)
2. Faithfulness to Biblical truth and integrity of witness are more valuable than political expediency. (1 Corinthians 4:1-5)
3. Response to life issues is with the mind of Christ; prayerfully with humility, compassion, selflessness, speaking the truth in love. (Philippians 2:1-8; 2 Timothy 2:24-26)
4. Education remains our focus, trusting the Holy Spirit to change hearts and minds. (2 Timothy 2:24-26)
5. We uphold the sanctity of human life because all people are created and redeemed by God whose intent for them is to bear His image for time and for eternity. (John 10:10)

Based on these core values and their Scriptural foundation, LFL offers a unique and powerful message. The enthusiastic consensus of the LFL leaders attending this retreat

was that we want to do more than just “stand against.” We want to **Move Forward!** We have a vision to do just that!

On page 17 you will meet Mr. Ed Szeto. He is the first step in boldly moving forward to reach more and more Lutherans with the “For Life” message of Scripture. As our Director of Outreach, Ed will be “out and about” helping and equipping State Federations, LFL chapters and Life Ministry Coordinators, and local congregations to become more involved and active in seeing the life issues as spiritual issues which God’s people are compelled to address.

There is an urgency to do so. I was made even more aware of this at a bioethics conference I attended in July entitled “Remaking Humanity?” Speaker after speaker emphasized how science is moving quickly toward redefining what it means to be human. Joni Eareckson Tada, a quadriplegic since 1967, also addressed the conference. She said that we need to start drawing lines when it comes to these kinds of things, not just because drawing lines is right, but because drawing lines is at stake!

Drawing lines is indeed at stake. It is at stake in the Church. So many denominations have stopped drawing lines. Christian denominations are paying for abortions, supporting destructive embryonic stem cell research, ordaining homosexual bishops, and supporting homosexual marriage. Everyday it seems the list gets longer and longer.

Drawing lines is at stake because of what some Christians are doing. It is also at stake because of what some Christians are **not** doing. Those who have and know the truth, those who know where the lines should be drawn, need to be speaking up. That’s what Lutherans For Life wants to help Lutherans do! We have this wonderful Law and Gospel Word that God has given us and brought to light through Jesus Christ. We have the message of where lines are to be drawn, a message of a God who restores those who cross lines and a message that enables us to trust in promises so that we avoid crossing lines.

Please unite with us as we strive, under God’s grace, to boldly **Move Forward!**

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## How to Build a Culture of Life

by Linda D. Bartlett  
President - National Lutherans For Life

Our souls long for a culture of life. That is why I think that those in the pro-life community speak of it with great emotion and feeling. From the rubble of a culture of death, we want to raise a culture of life. But what does such a culture look like? What is its design? How do we build a culture of life?

A growing number of young men and women call themselves "pro-life," not only because they have been convinced by hard-to-ignore evidence, but because their very being tells them human life is special. However, they are unsure how to build a culture in which each human life is protected and respected. I believe this is because the Blueprint for life has been lost. That Blueprint is the Word of God.

The people of Israel had lost the Blueprint too. They had lost the Book of Moses' Teachings, which the Lord had commanded Israel to follow. When it was found, Ezra brought the Book of Teachings in front of the people and began to read. From daybreak until noon, he read from it. Then the Levites explained the Teachings in ways that the people could understand. The people cried. They had been without the Teachings for so long and had not lived as God wanted them to. But Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest, and the Levites who taught the people all said, "This is a holy day! Don't mourn or cry!" (Nehemiah 8:1-9)

Our society has lost the Teachings – the very Blueprint for a culture of life. It is no wonder that we live the way we do! But, you or I do not need to mourn or cry! Nor do our families, friends, neighbors, or anyone that we meet along life's path. We have only to look to God's Word to know how to build a culture of life.

God's Word assures me that I can personally help build a culture of life by building a home. Building a home is what a homemaker does. It is what a mother does. Even if a woman is not married or unable to have children of her own, she certainly has a sphere of influence – a home, if you will. She builds a culture of life by nurturing those who live in or enter her "home."



How do I know this? Because my parents and grandparents taught me. They understood their role in the design, their purpose explained by the Blueprint. I think they all understood that a culture of life begins in the home. God created man and woman and, from their blessed union, filled the earth with life.

Marriage, home, and family are the building blocks of a civil society. God designed the family as a place of safety and security, dependent upon a faithful marriage between one man and one woman whose lives are submitted to Him. Our understanding of ourselves as male or female comes from the home. Our worldview is shaped in the home. As Lutherans "For Life," we are familiar with the godly idea of home and family because we are a people who get into the Word and study the design. But there is a world out there that has

no idea of what it means to be a man or woman and how each should respond to the other; no idea of what real family means or how mothers and fathers relate; no idea of the harmony which grows out of the created order and the servant-style love of a husband for his wife (Ephesians 5:25); no idea of a woman's vibrant influence on the culture as a "pillar of the palace" (Psalm 144:12) and the bearer and nurturer of life. You and I are needed to share these ideas!

All of my grandparents understood the Biblical idea of family. Of course, if they were here to speak today, I'm quite sure that they would confess many mistakes and shortcomings. They would have welcomed opportunities to do better but trusted in the promise of their Savior who forgave each and every sin. I believe that I'm doing what I'm doing today in large part because of them. I have vivid memories of going to stay with my mother's par-

*"How to Build a Culture of Life" continued on page 7...*

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# The 3Bs of When Life Begins

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

“When does human life begin?” That question comes up in connection with cloning and embryonic stem cells and genetic testing and the “morning after” pill. Physicians, scientists, politicians, philosophers, and theologians offer a variety of complex and differing answers. Does anyone really know when life begins?

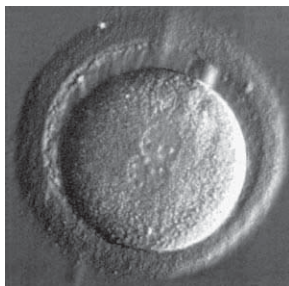
Is it really all that complicated? Let’s get back to some basics.

If the “3Rs” are the basics of education, the “3Bs” are the basics of when life begins – Biology, Bible, and Baptism.

## Biology

The field of biology that deals with when life begins is embryology. It is embryologists, not those professions listed above, that we should turn to with the question of when life begins. Embryologists and every major textbook of Human Embryology states that a new individual human life begins at conception. An international committee called *Nomina Embryologica* recognizes and approves this definition as correct.

When the sperm and egg come together, a new and unique human being exists. This is true whether this union takes place in the normal way inside a woman’s body or if it takes place in a petri dish. Embryologists speak of this as the beginning of life’s continuum. **It is not something developing into a**



**human being. It is a developing human being.** He or she will continue to develop through the various stages of life. There is no other point where you could say biologically or logically “This is where life begins.” To do so would be arbitrary, subjective, and contrary to established scientific fact.

Nevertheless it is done frequently. Terms like “pre-embryo” and statements like “It’s not human until it is implanted in the uterus” or “You are not pregnant until the embryo is implanted” have been used, not to express scientific reality, but to justify the dehumanizing of human embryos. Such dehumanizing is necessary if you are going to favor cloning or embryonic stem cell research or “morning after” pills that may prevent a developing human being from attaching to the uterus.

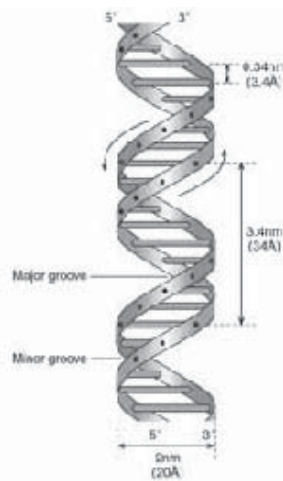
When it comes to biology, the answer to the question of when life begins is not complicated. Embryologists tell us

unequivocally that there is a new and unique human life at the moment of conception.

## Bible

Before we look at how the Bible affirms what biology tells us, it is important to understand that such affirmation is not absolutely necessary before other Biblical principles apply. Since it is a fact of biology that human life begins at conception, then how the Bible tells us to treat human life begins at that moment. At the moment of conception, the embryo becomes our neighbor to love (Matthew 22:39). He or she is life to be protected (Exodus 20:13). Since human embryos are so vulnerable, they need our defense (Proverbs 31:8-9) and are to be treated as we would Jesus Himself (Matthew 25:40). Christians need to be consistent in their treatment of human life. Just as it is inappropriate to designate a beginning to human life wherever we choose other than conception, so it is inappropriate to value human life wherever we choose along life’s continuum.

Now to what the Bible says about the beginning of human life. The Bible does not use language that is as specific as sperm and egg coming together in a fallopian tube. Biblical language expresses the idea that God is intimately involved in our being formed from the very beginning. Psalm 139:13 says, **“For You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.”** The word “knit” expresses a personal “hands on” involvement from the very beginning. It is interesting to read this verse picturing the intricacies of a DNA molecule. It is almost as if it is “knit” together!



The word “womb” used here is not as specific as “uterus.” It has the idea of “inside” and can be used of the entire lower abdomen. We know that life does not begin in the womb (uterus) but in the fallopian tube. This new little boy or girl has developed for six or seven days before establishing residence in the uterus. The word “womb” as used in Psalm 139, does not restrict God’s action to the uterus and thus does not contradict biology.

The fact that Jesus’ human life began when He was “conceived by the Holy Spirit” affirms that human life is present at the moment of conception. Elizabeth and her unborn son John acknowledge Jesus as already existing within Mary (Luke 1:39-45). Since Mary left to visit Elizabeth immediately after the message from the angel, Jesus may not even have been implanted in her uterus when this encounter took place! To accomplish our salvation, Jesus shared in our hu-

manity (Hebrews 2:14). He became like us in every respect except He was without sin (Hebrews 4:15). Since we are sinful from the moment of conception (Psalm 51:5), we are human beings in need of salvation from the moment of conception. Jesus had to begin as we did.

Embryologists have discovered the Biblical truth that human life begins at conception.

## Baptism

It is critically important that we discuss “When does life begin?” in the spiritual sense as well. Paul says that we are “dead in our transgressions and sins” (Ephesians 2:1), that we are “by nature objects of wrath” (Ephesians 2:3). Therefore, we need to be “made alive” (Ephesians 2:5). Jesus says that we need to be “born again” (John 3:3). Baptism is a means to this new beginning of life.



**“We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life”** (Romans 6:4).

This new life is a life of faith. It is a life of trusting in promises. The preeminent promise that grounds this life of faith is the promise of a “Sabbath-rest for the people of God” (Hebrews 4:9). Jesus is preparing a place (John 14:2-3), an eternal home. It is a place so eternally wonderful that the troubles of this present time will seem but “light and momentary” (2 Corinthians 4:17).

In the reality of the meantime, however, we also trust in another promise. “He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32) Our God who bought us with the price of His very own Son will not leave us to fend for ourselves. People who have a new life of faith have a new way of looking at life and its problems and troubles. Since the cross of Jesus assures us of God’s love, there is nothing that can separate us from that love (Romans 8:35-39). Problems in our lives remind us of the presence of sin in this world and in our flesh but do not indicate the absence of God and His love.

This new life of faith has three important practical implications:

1. When faced with difficult situations, we do not have to turn to the solutions offered by the world. Abortion

is not the answer to a crisis pregnancy. Embryonic stem cell research – research that intentionally destroys a tiny human life for his or her body parts – is not the answer to treating devastating diseases. Assisted suicide is not the answer to chronic or terminal illnesses. Jesus, the Lord of Life is the answer. He has promised to be with us, to get us through, to help us endure what we cannot get through, and to use it all for our spiritual welfare (Romans 8:28, Hebrews 12:7-11).

2. The Holy Spirit who gives us faith produces the fruit of faith in our lives that motivates and influences the choices we make (Galatians 5:16-25). Being pure sexually is a choice that we can make inside and outside of marriage. We can help carry one another’s burdens rather than treating people as if they are burdens. We can humbly bow to God’s will rather than arrogantly asserting our own. Those who have the new life baptism gives can renew that life daily as they recall the promises God makes in baptism.

3. When we do make mistakes, Jesus stands ready and willing to forgive (1 John 1:8-9). Sin need not lead us to despair and hopelessness. Jesus’ forgiveness brings newness to the new life and challenges us to better things (John 8:1-11).

When does life begin? It is as simple as the 3Bs. **Biology** and the **Bible** tell us that life begins at the moment of conception. **Baptism** marks the beginning of new spiritual life. These are inseparably linked. **Baptism** and faith enable us to see the truth of what God has revealed in the **Bible**. That truth enables us to see all human life as valued by God from the moment of conception. That truth enables us to live our lives trusting in promises rather than being overwhelmed by our circumstances.

## Abortion numbers for the the United States alone...\*



**3,250 every day.**  
**135 every hour.**  
**Approximately one**  
**abortion every 30 seconds.**  
**1,186,039 abortions every year.**  
**306 abortions for every**  
**1,000 live births.**

\*1997 data from the Centers for Disease Control.  
 (This is the most recent data that includes the entire United States.)

## Single-Cell Stage

by Fr. Frank Pavone, *Priests for Life*

When we explain and defend the sanctity of life, we usually use the word “conception” to mark the beginning of life. Life is sacred “from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death,” we say.

But it may be time to fine-tune our language.

By “conception” we normally understand “the union of sperm and ovum.” A term also used to describe that event is “fertilization.” Indeed, the lengthy hearings that took place in the U.S. Senate in 1982, and the two-volume report on the Human Life Bill being debated at the time, used the terms “conception” and “fertilization” to mean the same thing. (See Human Life Bill, US Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee of Separation of Powers, 97th Congress, S-158, April-June 1982, Serial No. J-97-16).

Yet efforts have been made over the years to use the word “conception” to refer not to the fertilization of the ovum by the sperm but rather to the implantation of the blastocyst (the newly developing human at about a week after fertilization) into the uterine wall. Hence one reads in *OB & GYN Terminology*, “Conception is the implantation of the blastocyst. It is not synonymous with fertilization” (E. Hughes, ed., Philadelphia: F.A. Davis, 1972).

What’s the importance of this? It re-defines pregnancy and abortion. In other words, if pregnancy or conception does not start until implantation, this gives some the excuse to call the killing of a new human life in the first week of its existence “contraception” rather than the name it deserves, “abortion.” In law, statistics, and public relations efforts, such a move can mask countless abortions.

A good example is the following quote from the website of Planned Parenthood:

“According to general medical definitions of pregnancy that have been endorsed by many organizations including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the United States Department of Health and Human Services, pregnancy begins when a pre-embryo [\*] completes implantation into the lining of the uterus (ACOG, 1998; DHHS, 1978; Hughes, 1972; “Make the Distinction...” 2001). Methods of contraception, including emergency contraception, prevent pregnancy by inhibiting ovulation, fertilization, and/or implantation (ACOG, 1998).”

Beware of this interplay of words when you hear someone talk about “preventing conception.”

With modern technology, genetic manipulation, and the

threat of cloning, there can even be problems with the word “fertilization.” Yes, human life begins with the union of ovum and sperm. But now, some human lives may begin by other methods of asexual reproduction and the transfer of cell nuclei. And if a person were ever cloned, he or she would still be a person, with full human rights and dignity.

To avoid any confusion, then, about the full humanity of our youngest brothers and sisters, it may be well to adopt the language that “human life is sacred, and is to be protected, from the single-cell stage.” This would clearly exclude the interpretation of “implantation” as the start of life and would include every new human life, no matter how that single cell came about.

\* Note: There is no such thing as a “pre-embryo.”

### Not for the Faint of Heart

Have you ever wondered how it can be that the “very nice” doctor who lives down the street is the same man who, earlier in the day, recommended an abortion for a teenage girl; or the “very nice” pastor in your local church counseled a member of the congregation to use abortifacient contraception . . . ; or the “very nice” Presidential candidate announced his support for killing unborn children where the circumstances of conception were jaded by rape or incest? Did you know that many of the soldiers who participated in Hitler’s Final Solution were middle aged bakers, craftsmen, and tinkers – ordinary men who became willing executioners for the Nazis and who were trained to believe that shooting Jewish boys and girls was really an act of mercy?

The history of the world is the history of ordinary men and women – “very nice” men and women – performing extraordinary acts of brutality when the restraining influence of Christianity is lifted from a culture. It is precisely because man’s capacity for depravity is so great that we must be vigilant in proclaiming and living by a distinctively prolife ethic. This ethic affects the way we view conception, the elderly, the disabled, and the mandate to procreate for the glory of God.

by Doug Phillips,  
President, The Vision Forum, Inc.  
[www.visionforum.com](http://www.visionforum.com)

... *“How to Build a Culture of Life” continued from page 3*

ents for a week every summer. My Grandpa Blome gathered us around each morning so that he could start our day by reading from the Bible. He introduced me to ideas of God by both leading and serving his family. I think that Grandma Blome did not fear her vulnerability as a woman because her husband understood the responsibilities of Biblical manhood. I think my mother learned to feel safe in her femininity thanks to the loving respect and protection of her father.

My most vivid and long-lasting memories, however, are of my father’s mother. Much of my childhood was spent at Grandpa and Grandma Barhite’s because they lived just down the road. My journey through girlhood into womanhood was influenced by Mom, of course, but also Grandma Barhite. Did she realize that she was mentoring me in the way of Biblical womanhood? She delighted in preparing food for her family, setting a pretty table, and being available to her children. She truly was a “pillar” for her husband. She drew her strength from the Lord and went to work in her home with energy; her lamp burned late at night. She practiced the gift of hospitality; she served the needs of others in both church and community. She taught me lessons of life in her kitchen and, although I never remember her wearing purple, she always spoke with wisdom. I loved opportunities to “sleep over.” Under cover of one of her warm quilts, we would talk late into the night. I can’t recall every story or example she shared, but I know they are tucked away in the corners of my mind and that they influence my decision-making today.

Dad and Mom learned how to be my parents in their Christian homes. They learned about the roles that were assigned to them by God and how male and female appropriately relate to one another for the good of society. They put what they learned into practice and built a home of their own. Although I never heard them refer to it in quite this way, I believe they had learned how to build a culture of life. My mother was the bearer of my life; my father was my “hero” and defender of my life. My brother and I grew up dealing with the normal challenges of life in a sinful world but, thanks to generational teaching from the Word, we knew the path away from death to life.

God delights in revealing Himself to human beings. It is His plan that “a man will leave his father and mother and will be united with his wife, and they will become one flesh.” (Genesis 2:24). From this union springs life – no matter if it is through the procreative act of that husband and wife, adoption, or mentoring Biblical manhood and womanhood to nephews, nieces, and other young people placed in their lives.

Abortion grows out of a culture of death. No one I know likes abortion, but few know what to do about it. They don’t know how to prevent it and or to welcome those who survive it. Souls hunger for a culture of life, but they don’t know

how to build it. They need a Blueprint. They need the Word of Life! They need people like you and me to paint a compelling picture of Biblical manhood and womanhood, of home and family, of forgiveness and reconciliation. They need fellow sinners who know the way to the Cross and, from there, to hope.

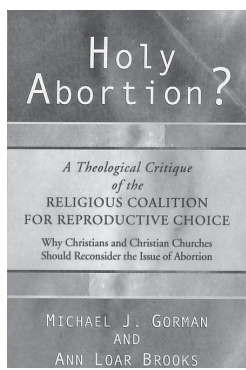
Each one of us can add a brick that builds a culture of life wherever we are. How I personally do this has become even more clear in the last few years. I can mentor “for life” from my kitchen, in a friend’s living room, at “tea,” or during a “sleep-over.” The model is the same for me as it was for my mother and grandmothers. That model is found in Titus 2:3-5: *Tell older women to live their lives in a way that shows they are dedicated to God . . . to be examples of virtue. In this way they will teach young women to show love to their husbands and children, to use good judgment, and to be morally pure. Also, tell them to teach young women to be homemakers, to be kind, and to place themselves under their husbands’ authority. Then no one can speak evil of God’s Word.* (Men have a model, too! It’s in Titus 2:2, 6-8)

What grows out of this model? *We can expect what we hope for – the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He gave Himself for us to set us free from every sin and to cleanse us so that we can be His special people who are enthusiastic about doing good things.* (2:13-14)

Good things are the stuff on which a culture of life is built!



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**Item 105B**

## End-of-Life Issues Update

### Hemlock Society Changes Name to Moderate Its Image

The Hemlock Society, a 23 year-old group that advocates assisted suicide, has announced it is changing its name to End-of-Life Choices.

“The new name is a more direct and accurate description of who we are and of the issues we support,” said Paul Spiers, the group’s board chairman.

Pro-life groups say the name is merely an attempt to cover up a radical agenda.

“Pro-euthanasia forces are masters of euphemism – and they have to be,” Lori Kehoe told LifeNews.com. “The not so shocking reality is that most people do not find offing the elderly, the sick, or people with disabilities very honorable or very support-worthy.”

Kehoe, who is a congressional liaison for the National Right to Life department of medical ethics, said “They can call themselves whatever they want, but the fact is that what is offensive about them isn’t what they choose to call themselves but rather what they’ve chosen as their mission.”

The group’s name change may cause problems for the many organizations that actually offer end-of-life services to the elderly and disabled.

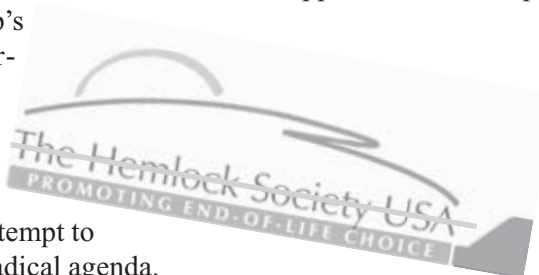
Tina Klugh, a marketing assistant at the Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home in Fargo, North Dakota, told LifeNews.com that her business uses the term “End of Life Choices” when talking to older people about burial arrangements.

“The new name creates some real challenges, even if one looks only through an industry lens, for writers of pre-need literature, pre-plan educational classes and funeral ‘industry’ advertising,” Klugh said.

“It will be important for senior care organizations and end-of-life related businesses to be pro-active in rebutting this choice of wording, which associates pro-suicide ideology with one’s aging,” Klugh told LifeNews.com.

The Hemlock Society was named after a poisonous plant. Hemlock is believed to be the poison drunk by Socrates in 399 BC. The group is known for its how-to suicide manual *Final Exit*.

(Steven Ertelt, LifeNews.com, 7/24/03)



### Assisted Suicide in Decline, Scholar Says

“Assisted Suicide is losing support,” says international assisted suicide expert Wesley J. Smith. “In my ten years as an activist opposing assisted suicide, I first saw the pendulum swing broadly in favor of legalization, and then, in recent years, breathed a sigh of relief as it ever-so-slowly moved back against it,” Smith writes in a *National Review* op-ed piece. “Considering how things looked only six years ago, it is a dramatic turnaround worth celebrating.”

Smith, who is a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute and an attorney and consultant for the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, argues that the “supposed inevitability” of euthanasia is crumbling. Gallup polls show that 49% of Americans see doctor-assisted suicide as “wrong” and only 45% as “acceptable.” A favorite weapon of the pro-euthanasia forces, “anti-religious demagoguery,” he says, “doesn’t cut it anymore.”

Smith notes that, “assisted suicide has not taken a significant step forward in the United States since 1997, the year doctors began to legally write lethal prescriptions in Oregon . . . Of course, none of this means that the assisted-suicide threat has passed. Even under the best of circumstances, the movement will remain with us for years to come. But the trend line, at least for now, seems to be heading in the right direction.”

(LifeSiteNews.com, 5/21/03)

### Half of Dutch Euthanasia Cases Unreported

Dutch doctors are increasingly prepared to report euthanasia cases to the regional death-on-request review commissions – but just 54% of such deaths were officially reported in 2001, a report revealed in May.

The low percentage of reported euthanasia deaths was because doctors wished to avoid the administrative hassle of reporting a euthanasia case and were concerned they might have reached the regulations, according to an NOS report.

But despite the high number of unreported cases, the 2001 figure represented an improvement on previous study results, in which doctors reported just 41 and 18% of all euthanasia cases in 1995 and 1991 respectively.

And doctors are in general satisfied with the review commission system and do not believe it should change, the report from the VU medical centre and the Erasmus Medical Centre indicated, newspaper De Volkskrant reported.

Euthanasia is legal in the Netherlands, on strict conditions requiring the patient officially requests to die, is suffering from extreme pain or a terminal illness, and a second medical opinion has been sought. Furthermore, doctors are required to report euthanasia deaths to the regional review



commissions, which investigate whether all regulations were met.

Meanwhile, May's report also revealed that family doctors are more prepared to report euthanasia than specialists and nursing home doctors because they can appeal for advice and information from the SCEN-consulenten, an association of independent and skilled colleagues. Specialists and nursing home medics cannot ask for advice from the SCEN.

The 2001 investigation was carried out on behalf of the Health and Justice ministries, a year before the Dutch government was the first in the world to legalize euthanasia, the practice of which previously came under a policy of toleration.

The study found that after years of continued increases, the number of euthanasia deaths and assisted suicides stabilized in 2001 at 3,500 and 300 respectively, newspaper NRC Handelsblad reported.

Doctors received 9,700 euthanasia or assisted suicide requests in 2001, but carried out only 3,800 euthanasia or assisted suicide deaths, a figure which is much higher than official numbers due to the fact that doctors only reported half of the nation's euthanasia cases. On an annual basis, doctors also end the lives of 900 people without the required request, the research indicated.

The 3,800 euthanasia or assisted suicide deaths in 2001 totaled just 2.7% of all deaths in the Netherlands. Researchers surveyed 5,600 doctors to compile their findings and carried out at-length interviews with 500 doctors.

*(Expatica News, 5/23; prolifeinfo.com, 5/25)*

## Swiss Study Shows 70% of Terminally Ill Euthanized

A new study shows that Switzerland has one of the highest rates of euthanasia in Europe. The report by the University of Zurich found that seven out of ten terminally ill people ended their lives through different types of euthanasia.

This was higher than in any other country in the European Union-sponsored study, which also included Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Italy, and Sweden.

The study examined 3,350 deaths in German-speaking Switzerland and found that half of them involved some form of euthanasia.

In almost one in three cases, passive euthanasia was applied, where doctors cut off life support.

However, active euthanasia, where specific steps are taken to end a patient's life and which is still illegal in Switzerland, was more common in the Netherlands, where 2.6% of deaths are related to this type of euthanasia.

Compared with its European neighbors, Switzerland also has the highest number of cases of assisted suicide, a fact

that is partly due to the presence of various groups in the country offering to kill people, such as Dignitas or Exit.

Whereas active euthanasia is illegal in Switzerland, assisted suicide is not.

About 0.4% of the 60,000 deaths in German-speaking Switzerland each year are related to assisted suicide, amounting to around 500 people. In the Netherlands, 0.2 percent of deaths were linked to assisted suicide, and in Belgium the figure is 0.01%.

There were no recorded cases of assisted suicide in Sweden or Italy.

In the wake of the report, the Swiss Senate has decided to put forward a new proposal for a law on euthanasia and assisted suicide. It has commissioned the Swiss Ethics Commission to draw up a document.

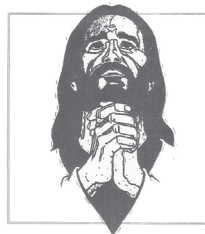
Last year Dignitas, one of four pro-euthanasia organizations offering assisted suicide in Switzerland, came under fire for bringing foreigners and the mentally ill to Switzerland to die.

Since then, the Zurich authorities have voiced their anxiety that Switzerland might become a center for people wishing to take their own lives.

Most of the people who have used the group's services have been terminally ill, but controversially, some have been suffering from mental illnesses.

*(SwissInfo, prolifeinfo.com, 6/19)*

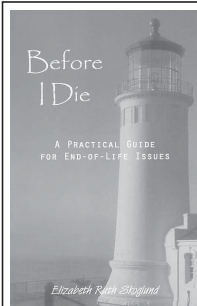
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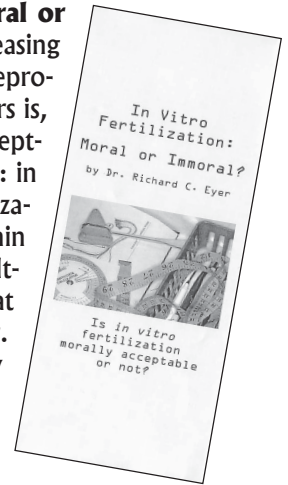
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**In Vitro Fertilization: Moral or Immoral?** - One of the increasing number of questions asked about reproductive technologies by parishioners is, "Is *in vitro* fertilization morally acceptable or not?" Since *in vitro* (Latin: in glass referring to a petri dish) fertilization is a process involving issues within issues there is often confusion resulting from attempts to answer that question. In this brochure, Dr. Richard C. Eyer attempts to identify the separate issues and their moral standing so that the reader can evaluate the moral acceptability or unacceptability of *in vitro* fertilization. **\$0.25 each plus S & H - Item #1002T**

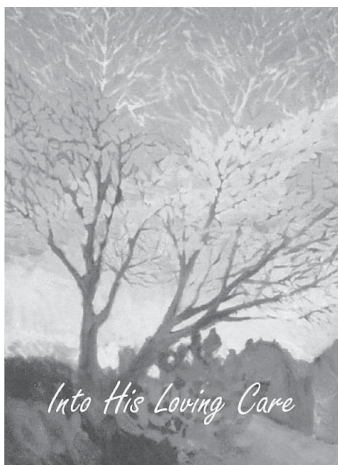
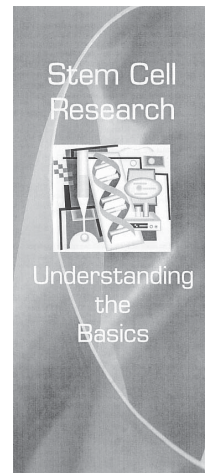


**Cloning: Understanding the Basics** - The cloning of Dolly the sheep is old news. Now there is talk about cloning humans to "replace" a dead child or to provide body parts for transplant. There is even a cult that sees cloning as the means to eternal life. The vast majority of people are opposed to such cloning. But what about cloning human embryos to obtain stem cells in order to treat disease? **\$0.45 each plus S & H - Item #1001T**

**FULL COLOR**

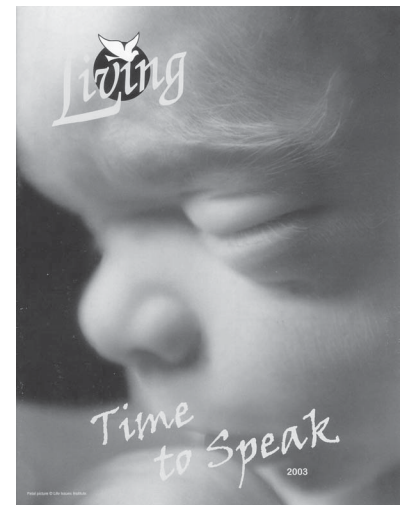
**Stem Cell Research: Understanding the Basics** - It is important for the Christian to understand that God's Word does have something to say about embryonic stem cell research (ESCR). To understand how God's Word applies to this controversial issue, however, a basic understanding of the biology involved is necessary first. So welcome to Embryonic Stem Cell Biology 101! **\$0.45 each plus S & H - Item #1000T**

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*Other For Life Resources ...*

**NEW!**

**Playing God - Redesigning Life** explores the ethics of:

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

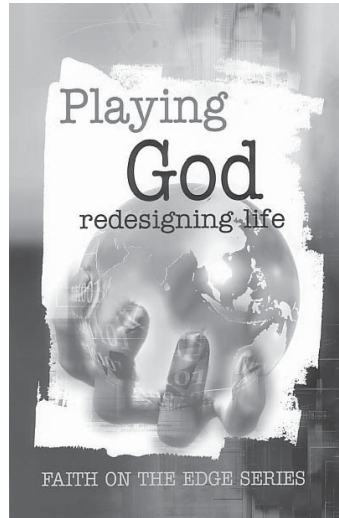
As you progress through this 6-session study, you will learn how these scientific "advances" hold up in light of God's Word. You'll discover that God has designs for every life.

This study is written by Rev. Dr. Robert W. Weise, Professor of Pastoral Ministry and the Life Sciences, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

**Playing God - Redesigning Life**, part of the *Faith on the Edge* Bible study series from Concorida Publishing House, explores the relationship between faith, science, and technology – how this relationship affects our culture – and how you can Biblically respond.

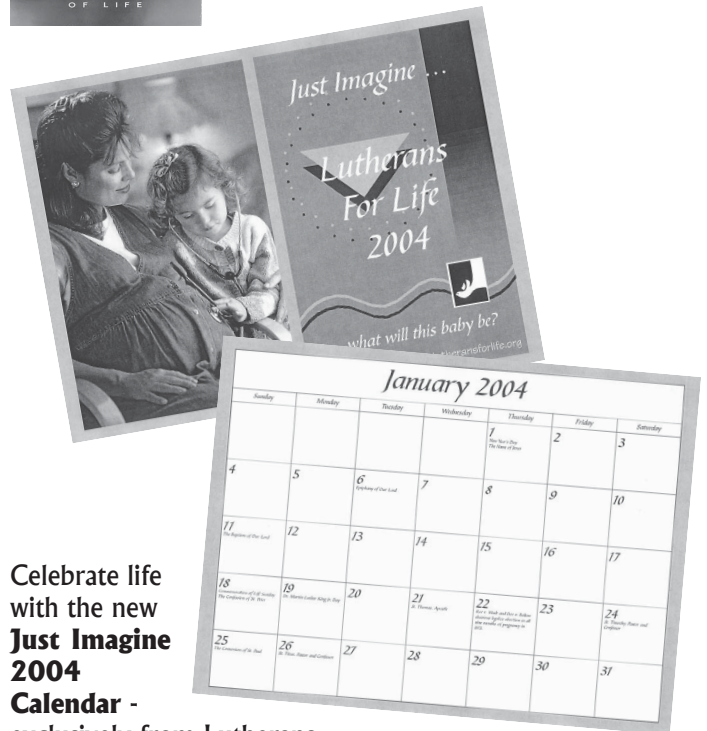
These six one-hour studies are for individuals or groups. **\$6.50 plus S & H - Item #1000BS**

Each *Faith on the Edge* study looks at a specific postmodern issue, examines it from a Biblical perspective, and provides a credible argument from experts. New technology or scientific theories are not condemned or dismissed. Instead, this series explores the benefits and dangers in view of Scripture and focuses on submitting human abilities, reason, and resources to God.



**For Men Only** - Many babies could be saved if the father would realize that his unborn baby about to be aborted is a living, growing human being. This brochure explains all of the current abortion methods and complications. A Scriptural insert from Lutherans For Life is also included. **\$0.25 each plus S & H. Item #303T**

*New LFL Calendar for 2004!*



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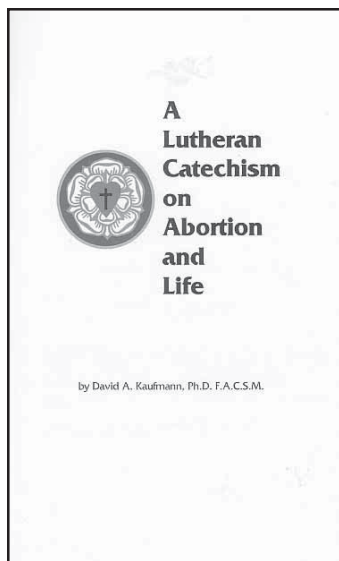
exclusively from Lutherans For Life! This full color calendar spotlights LFL's 2004 theme - *Just Imagine . . . what will this baby be?* - with Scripture and beautiful photography. There is plenty of room to write in dates and appointments! Supplies limited! **\$3.50 each plus S & H - Item #1605**

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# Twisting Reality: Teenagers, Sex, and Depression

by Charles Colson

The Heritage Foundation has published a new study showing a link between sexual activity and depression among teenagers. The news isn't good. For sexually active girls age fourteen to seventeen, the rates of depression (which the study's authors define as "unhappiness," not clinical depression) are more than three times higher than for those who have not been sexually active. Sexually active boys "are more than twice as likely to be depressed as are those who are not sexually active." And both boys and girls who have been sexually active are more likely to commit suicide.

Study co-author Robert Rector is quick to point out that the study, based on the National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health, does not show conclusive evidence of a "causal link" between sexual activity and depression. Such a cause-and-effect relationship, he says, would be "really impossible to prove." And some people, of course, are skeptical about the study as a whole. Tamara Kreinin of the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (or SIECUS), which promotes "safer sex" education, thinks it's important to focus on other factors as well when studying teenage depression – factors like family problems and abuse.

Kreinin may be right about that. But the study's authors did control for certain "social background factors," like "gender, race, age, and family income." Moreover, nearly two-thirds of the sexually active teenagers surveyed expressed regrets about having sex too early. This suggests "that early sexual activity leads to emotional stress and reduces teen happiness." And regardless of whether unhappiness causes early sexual activity or the other way around, they say, "teens should be told that sexual activity in teen years is clearly linked to reduced personal happiness."

You'd think everyone could agree about this. Unfortunately, nothing will deter some people from selling the "safer sex" message to kids. No matter what the data show, organizations like SIECUS and Planned Parenthood insist there's no way to stop kids from having sex and that the best we can do is to teach them to use condoms and other birth control methods.

The fundamental problem is one of worldview – whether we believe that we are designed by a loving Creator to glorify Him and enjoy His gifts or whether we are merely a biological accident with no transcendent moral law. If "human sexual relationships are predominantly emotional and moral rather than physical in character," as Rector and his team put

it, we will teach kids to treat themselves and each other with care and respect, to recognize that sex is too important and valuable a gift to be taken lightly. If we ignore that emotional and moral aspect and tell kids to treat sex simply as recreation, we're creating a generation with no self-worth or respect for boundaries. And we ought to expect the unhappiness, depression, and even suicide that follows.

No matter how this link works, we need to acknowledge that it's there and what it's telling us about truth . . . whenever we twist reality to suit our own desires and views, the consequences are serious – even deadly. But when we live as God intended, we find that it adds to, rather than subtracts from, our happiness.

*(Breakpoint.org, 6/17. Used by permission. LifeSiteNews.com, 6/5)*

## Teen Sex - Facts and Statistics

- Condoms are completely ineffective against six common STDs.
- According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about 25% of sexually active teenagers get a sexually transmitted disease (STD) every year and 80% of infected teens don't even know they have an STD, passing the diseases along to unsuspecting partners.
- 46% of teen girls become infected with an STD during their first sexual encounter. 30 different STDs infect millions of kids ages 12 to 18.
- 20% of Americans age 12 and older test positive for genital herpes.
- Of the new HIV infections each year, about 50% occur in people under the age of 25.
- 20% of adolescents aged 12 to 14 report having had sexual intercourse.
- Teenage girls who are sexually active are three times more likely to be depressed than are girls who are not active. Those girls who are sexually active are almost three times more likely to attempt suicide than are girls who are not active.
- Teenage boys who are sexually active are more than twice as likely to be depressed than are boys who are not active. Those boys who are sexually active are almost ten times more likely to attempt suicide than are boys who are not active.
- Almost two-thirds of sexually active teenage boys and girls state that they wish they had waited longer before beginning sexual activity. Almost three quarters of sexually active teenage girls state they wish they had waited longer before beginning sexual activity.

(American Family Association, Heritage Foundation, National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Focus on the Family, LifeSiteNews.com, 6/5, 6/21, 7/24)

# Teen Abortion Numbers Decline

By Randall K. O'Bannon, National Right to Life-Educational Trust Fund Director of Education & Research

Statistics released from the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) show teens reporting fewer abortions and a lower abortion rate than any time since abortion became legal nationwide in 1973.

According to AGI, women under 20 reported having 249,660 abortions in 1999, some eight thousand fewer than the year before. That was the lowest number since 1973, when there were 243,530.

The total number of abortions annually for teenagers was consistently above 300,000 from 1975 to 1993. The peak came in 1979 – 460,820 abortions.

Population shifts might theoretically account for some of the decline, as the bubble of baby boomers aged. However the abortion rate (measured by AGI as the number of abortions per 1,000 women) demonstrates that abortion is becoming a less common feature of these young women's lives.

For 1999, the abortion rate for women under 20 stood at 25.6 per thousand, again the lowest since 1973, when it was 23.9 per thousand. The abortion rate first climbed over 30 per thousand in 1975.

For the period 1978 through 1990, the figure climbed into the 40s per thousand, peaking at 45.4 in 1985. The number did not drop below 30 per thousand until 1996.

Pregnancy rates (an AGI estimate of the number of pregnancies for a thousand women) also fell during the same period that abortion rates fell for teens. Thus some of that decrease was a matter of fewer teens becoming pregnant.

However, if we contrast abortion, birth, and pregnancy rates from 1990, when pregnancy rates were highest, with like figures from 1999, when pregnancy rates were lowest, we see that a higher percentage of teens who had become pregnant were choosing life for their babies in 1999.

This is simply one more indication that the younger generation is more pro-life. There has been much other evidence.

For example, national polls of incoming freshmen conducted by UCLA found support for abortion dropping from

an all time high of 64.9% in 1990 to just 50.9% in 1998. And a large poll conducted for the Buffalo News last November showed a marked surge in pro-life sentiment among younger people.

These latest figures from AGI show these are more than just attitudinal changes. These are changes so deep they are having real life consequences.

Fewer babies are being aborted. A higher percentage of pregnant teens are giving their unborn children the gift of life.

All this bodes well for the future.

(*Today's News and View, National Right to Life Committee, 5/21*)

## 26 Years of Planned Parenthood Abuses

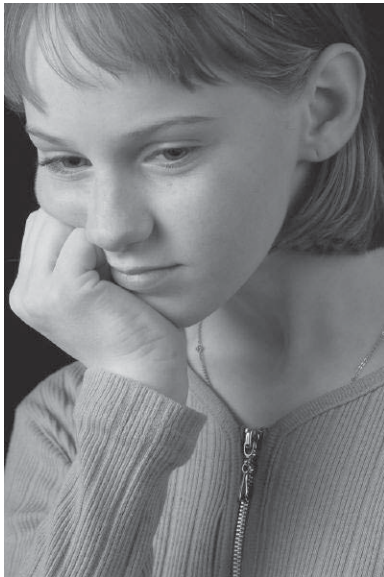
STOPP International, a project of American Life League that is dedicated to stopping Planned Parenthood and its anti-life activities, has released its annual Ryan Report Special Edition 2003. "This special annual report-which uses information from Planned Parenthood's own annual reports along with exclusive research that has been conducted by STOPP International-exposes Planned Parenthood's gross abuse of women and pre-born children through its taxpayer-funded activities," said Jim Sedlak, founder and executive director of STOPP International. "Since 1977, Planned Parenthood has brought in almost \$1 billion in income from abortion, while receiving almost \$2.5 billion in government money (since 1987)."

STOPP has found that since 1977, Planned Parenthood has performed 3,019,559 abortions while bringing in an estimated \$894 million in income from those abortions. In 2001, Planned Parenthood (PPFA) performed 16.4% of all abortions in the United States, which accounted for nearly one-third of PPFA's clinic income. "Planned Parenthood continues its eugenics-based attack on life through the widespread use of contraception and abortion," stated Ed Szymkowiak, STOPP's national director. "Its own financial data shows an organization that clearly operates on the back of the American taxpayer. It is time the American public is given the truth about Planned Parenthood's operation."

"It is a disgrace that the American taxpayer is forced to fund an organization that has nothing to do with mainstream American values," continued Sedlak. "Our special edition shows that there is declining support from the American people. It is time for the government to defund Planned Parenthood immediately."

A copy of the Ryan Report Special Edition 2003 can be found at [www.all.org/stopp/tr0304.htm](http://www.all.org/stopp/tr0304.htm)

(*LifeSiteNews.com, 5/21*)



# Some Scientists are Breaking the Law

by Dr. Dan Korow, DVM

Life only comes from life. This universal truth, called the Law of Biogenesis, was well established by Francesco Redi (1668), Lazzaro Spallanzani (1767), and Louis Pasteur (1864). The Law still stands. This unbridgeable chasm between living cells and nonliving matter is a devastating blow against the theory of naturalistic evolution. If unaided naturalistic processes lack the magic to create life, then a supernatural source is the only logical alternative.

Unwilling to believe in God, many scientists have chosen instead to dismiss this Law. They willfully embrace the defunct notion of spontaneous generation, or abiogenesis which Websters 1979 Dictionary defines as “the generation of living from nonliving matter. A former theory, now rejected.” Today’s belief in spontaneous generation is spun into a myriad of contradictory, imaginary stories about life’s origin. One flimsy opinion is met with another unsubstantiated speculation, followed by yet another – each interpretation having its own religious dogmatism. For example, where did the so-called simplest, ancestral proto-cell come from? One group says the shallow primordial ponds, others say the terrestrial clay environment. And yet another boldly proclaims, “outer space.” This third group recognizes the impossibility of life originating spontaneously on Earth.

The process of unintelligent, non-directed, lifeless chemical evolution is said to bring dead matter to life. Let’s look at the reality of this notion. If Mother Nature and Father Chance are its parents, then this phenomena should be commonplace. But there is a problem. We do not observe it happening anywhere! Even with numerous attempts to manufacture life in a test tube with the most sophisticatedly designed equipment, life still remains out of reach. Repeated failures in the lab continue to plague our most brilliant, dedicated scientists. A student’s textbook states the following, “Scientists have no evidence that modern organisms can come from nonliving matter. However, at some time in Earth’s long history, life had to begin.”<sup>1</sup> Without experimental data supporting their proposition of abiogenesis, this is merely a faith statement. Wishful thinking and imagination are replacing true science.

The mysteries of life and its properties continue to baffle scientists. The simplest unit of life is the cell. It is a breathtaking, miniature chemical factory orchestrating hundreds of specific biochemical pathways.

Specific chemicals react to form specific products. Each product is in the right amount and in the right sequence, for a specific destination and purpose.

In the same way that one line of falling dominos can trigger other lines of dominos to fall, products of one chain reaction become the starting chemicals for the next reaction. These coordinated pathways are specially engineered and predetermined. This linkage of chemical pathways is unique to living cells.

However, when chemical reactions occur in lifeless matter we see a different scenario. Assuming that life is merely the collection of cellular components, then reassembly of its various parts should produce life, Right? Wrong!!!! Even when we have all the pieces, all the chemicals together in the right arrangement, we still do not have life.

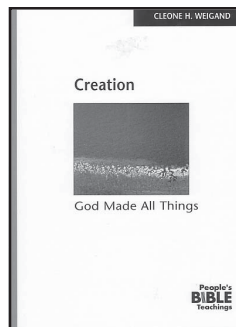
Efforts to reassemble and resurrect a once living cell continue to evade scientists. Even when all the components are in place, the chemical reactions run to a screeching halt. There is still no linkage, no cascade, no life. There is nothing but chemical dead ends, which are incompatible with life. Intelligent scientists can’t put “the Humpty Dumpty cell” back together again. Life is the missing ingredient.

Can true empirical science answer this most fundamental question, of when, where, and how life originated? No!!! It is hidden in a “black hole” of philosophical conjecture. Yet today’s textbooks still indoctrinate our kids with the evolutionary faith statement that abiogenesis is the only “scientific” explanation for life’s origin. The Bible states that God alone is the author and sustainer of Life. That’s why we can’t create it. It is given by God. “In Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28). Jesus said, “I am the Resurrection and the Life.” Only God can bridge the infinite gulf between life and nonlife.

*(Alpha Omega Institute, DiscoverCreation.org)*

#### References / Resources

<sup>1</sup>Focus On Life Science, Merrill Publishing Co., Copyright 1989  
Life, An Evidence For Creation, Dr. George T. Javor, ICC 1998



**CREATION - God Made All Things** makes 15 stops in God’s gallery to comment on what He has made through selected words from the book He made, the Holy Bible. Papercover. 176 pages.

By Cleone H. Weigand, who has served as a parish pastor for 40 years. Rev. Weigand is a member of the Lutheran Science Institute.

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■ Europe's permissiveness towards euthanasia is revealed in a new study showing that the number of assisted suicides there is on the rise. The study, published in the British weekly journal *The Lancet*, focuses on more than 20,000 deaths in six European countries, including Belgium, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Switzerland. Approximately one-third of deaths involved doctors withholding treatment or prescribing drugs for the patient that would hasten death. Only two-thirds of the deaths were by natural causes. The number of euthanasia deaths may be higher as many doctors may be unwilling to report such illegal practices. Euthanasia became legal in Holland in April 2002, the first country to legalize it nationwide. (*LifeNews.com*, 8/5)

■ Russia has had one of the highest abortion rates in the world for a long time. However, abortion, used as the country's primary means of birth control, is finally on the decline. The abortion rate is still astronomical: For every 10 births there are about 13 abortions, compared with roughly three in the United States. In 1997, there were three abortions registered for every birth in Russia. The infant mortality rate also fell during the same period, and the number of miscarriages has dropped from 21,000 in 1997 to 12,000 in 2002. Russia ranks second in the world behind Romania in the number of abortions per capita. Girls in Russia under 18 account for every tenth abortion. Of some 38 million women of childbearing age, about 6 million are infertile, and medical authorities consider abortions a major cause of infertility. (*LifeNews.com*, 7/28)



■ The executive director of the Fort Myers African and Caribbean American Center has criticized the high levels of abortion among African-American women. African-Americans make up 12% of the US population but account for 35% of abortions, and Planned Parenthood admitted as early as 1992 that abortion services were deliberately targeting African-American women. Ismael Hernandez is particularly critical of black politicians and public figures who support a procedure that has claimed the lives of approximately 13 million black babies in 27 years. He concludes by commenting: "In the past racists snatched black babies from their mother's arms and sold them into slavery. Today, they snatch them from their mother's womb and throw them in the garbage." (*News-Press*, SPUC, 8/8)

■ Chinese scientists are removing live hearts from babies during abortions and keeping them alive in culture fluid, CWN reports. Dr. Wang Tong of the procreation centre lab of the Shenyang Women and Infants' Hospital in Shenyang said that one heart had survived for thirteen days and another for nine. (*CW News*, 6/20; SPUC, 6/27)

■ A baby from the Hongze County, Jiangsu, China, was buried alive because her grandfather thought she had ugly lips, according to the *South China Morning Post*. He paid a man 50 Yuan and a packet of cigarettes to bury her, but she was rescued when a passer-by heard her cries. The killing of baby girls is not uncommon as an effect of the one-child policy in many parts of China. (*www.iol.co.za*, SPUC, 6/6)

■ A baby has been born in South Africa after developing in its mother's liver instead of in the womb. The new-born girl called Nhlahla, whose name means "luck" in the Zulu language, is reported to be only the fourth baby ever to survive such a pregnancy. Doctors report that both mother and baby are doing well. This type of extra-uterine (outside the womb) pregnancy is similar to, though much rarer, than standard ectopic pregnancies, in which the newly-conceived embryo implants in the fallopian tube instead of in the endometrium (the lining of the womb). (*BBC*, 5/23; SPUC 5/27)

■ 13,500 unborn children were killed by abortion in Norway last year, according to official statistics. A total of 15,000 abortions were requested, although 1,500 of them did not proceed. 2,200 abortions were performed on 15 to 19-year-olds, 250 fewer than last year and the lowest number since the current abortion law came into effect in 1979. Oslo, the capital city, saw the highest abortion rate in the country at 17 per 1,000 women aged 15 to 49. Abortion is available on request in Norway during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, after which it requires the approval of two doctors. (*Dagbladet*, SPUC, 4/25)

■ British Catholic Archbishop Peter Smith of Cardiff on taking ova from aborted babies: "How is it that we can recognize that the aborted fetus is human enough to become a biological parent and yet not human enough to have the right to life?" "During the last 18 months scientists working in this field seem (to) have completely lost their way. This is like going back to the Nazi experiments performed during the Second World War." (*LifeSite Daily News*, 7/3, with files from *Catholic News Service* and *Independent Catholic News*)

■ The New Zealand abortion rate is continuing to rise. There were almost 17,500 abortions performed during 2002, about a thousand more than in the previous year. Statistics New Zealand says this equates to 20 abortions for every thousand women aged 15 to 44. Almost all the abortions were granted on the specious grounds that to continue a pregnancy would pose a serious danger to the mental health of the mother. Despite the increase, New Zealand still has a lower abortion rate than Australia or the United States. (*Prolifeinfo.org*, 6/21)

# Life Thoughts in the Church Year

**ATTENTION PASTORS!** - The "For Life" message is not just for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Here are some thoughts, taken from the assigned readings in *Lutheran Worship*, on how you might keep this message an ongoing theme in worship and daily life.

## October 5 – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

The way of Jesus' Messiahship was the cross (Mark 8:27-35). His love, self-denial, and suffering were essential for our eternal salvation. We still must deal, however, with sin's consequences. Suffering in our lives becomes a means of self-denial and relying on God. Suffering in the lives of others becomes an opportunity to put our faith into action and love our neighbor (James 2:1ff.).

## October 12 – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Many, even within the Church, have been deceived into believing that abortion is an acceptable solution to a crisis pregnancy. This is an unholy "friendship with the world" (James 4:4). There is a better way. "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes Me" (Mark 9:37). [LFL has worship material based on this text that highlights the blessings of adoption.]

## October 19 – 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Compared to eternity, every life is but a "mist" (James 4:14). That does not mean life is frivolous and meaningless. God has a purpose for every life. We should not judge the value of any life based on the length of that life. God can and does work His wonders in every life whether we reach 100 years or are only here for a few hours.



## October 26 – 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Marriage and children are the subjects of today's readings. The one flesh union of marriage is the context in which we are to be fruitful and multiply. Those who are God's children in Christ are moved to trust in Him and need not turn to technologies that violate or circumvent this union.

## November 2 – 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

We can boast of courage and hope (Hebrews 3:6). But it is not a boast based on our own doings (Mark 10:20). We "fix [our] thoughts on Jesus" (Hebrews 3:1). Our courage and hope is based on His faithfulness not ours. When we make mistakes that lead to a difficult situation (e.g. a teen pregnancy), Jesus does not abandon us. We can turn to Him for the courage to make it through and the hope that He will work it for good.

## November 9 – Third Last Sunday in the Church Year

As we begin to think about the end times, Jesus says, "He who stands firm to the end will be saved" (Mark 13:13). Standing firm means willingly upholding God's truth even if it causes division, even if it sparks controversy, and even if it offends friends or family. We are going to shine "like the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3). In the meantime, we are to be lights shining in this dark world.

## November 16 – Second Last Sunday in the Church Year

Many see the acceptance of killing our children through abortion and killing our aged and weak through assisted suicide as signs of progress. We know they are signs of regression and sin. They are signs that prompt us to pray, "Come Lord Jesus." Until that time, however, we cling to and

share the one thing that will "never pass away," the Word of God (Mark 13:31).

## November 23 – Last Sunday in the Church Year

Today's readings focus upon "forever"! When the last day comes, those who believe in God's salvation in Christ will live in His glorious presence "without fault and with great joy" forever! (Jude 24) The faults and sorrows of this present time need not discourage us. They are nothing compared to what awaits us. What awaits us is everything!

## November 30 – First Sunday in Advent

The return of Jesus is often used to strike terror in people's hearts. Those who do not know Him have reason to be terrified (Luke 21:26). But those who do know Him, those who have been given the righteousness of Jesus talked about in today's other two readings, can "lift up" their heads! (Luke 21:28). There is no sin, including the sin of abortion, that need terrorize us on that day.

## December 7 – Second Sunday in Advent

Paul prays that the Philippians "may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ" (Philippians 1:10). That is a lot to ask! But he goes on, "filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes from Jesus Christ" (11). Discerning what is best and doing what is right in difficult situations is based on what God has given us in Christ. He will not forsake those He came to save.

## December 14 – Third Sunday in Advent

"Joy" is the theme for this Sunday! But what is so joyful about "You brood of vipers!"? It paves the way for repentance and the good news (Luke 3:18). John was not shy about dealing with specific sins (5:10-14). We need to be specific about the sin of abortion in our preaching so people will understand it is wrong and so that those who have made this mistake will be led to repentance and have the assurance and joy of forgiveness applied to their sin.

## December 21 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

Mary's visit to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45) provides a magnificent setting for the proclamation of the divinity of our Lord from the moment of conception and the humanity and dignity of the unborn. John is leaping in Elizabeth's womb in the presence of Jesus. Mary is referred to as "the mother of my Lord" (43). She isn't going to be, she is!

## December 24/25 – The Nativity of Our Lord

Luke 2 is that "greatest story ever told." But what's all the fuss about a baby in a dusty manger? The fuss is not about the circumstances of the birth but about who this child is and what this baby will be. He is the gift of God's Son. He will be the Savior of the world. Because of Him a fuss should be made over every birth and over every pregnancy. Every baby, born or not yet born, is a gift from God. Jesus died for them all.

## December 28 – The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Bring out the red paraments for this Sunday. Remember those babies who died so tragically and needlessly in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16-18). Remember the 3,250 babies killed so tragically every day in this country through abortion. But also remember their mothers and fathers. When the reality of their deadly decision strikes their hearts, they often will "[refuse] to be comforted" (18). The Jesus who escaped Herod's sword is their comfort.

## December 31 – Eve of the Name of Jesus

It was an unplanned pregnancy as far as Joseph was concerned (Matthew 1:18-21). But God had a plan! Joseph did not do what he had a "right" to do, divorce Mary or even have her stoned. He trusted in promises: "What is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." and "He will save His people from their sins." He trusted and named the child what He would be, Jesus (Savior).



## Director of Outreach!

God is giving Lutherans For Life more opportunities! After much prayer and consideration, National Lutherans For Life has hired a Director of Outreach. He is Ed Szeto, president of the Mid-Atlantic LFL Federation, which he helped form. Prior to accepting the LFL position, Ed was employed as a Transportation Analyst with Wilbur Smith Associates in New Jersey. Dr. Lamb says "Ed's experience will serve LFL well as we want the Director of Outreach to promote the vision and mission of LFL at the state and local levels." Duties of the new position include assisting in the development of new state federations and new chapters; promotion of a For Life emphasis within the existing structures of Lutheran congregations; and helping to identify and train LFL leaders.



## National Convention Student Assistance Fund

The LFL Council of Federation Presidents has made available a limited amount of funds to assist high school and college students who wish to attend the national LFL convention. Students who wish to apply for assistance must have an interest in the pro-life message of Lutherans For Life and meet one (1) of the following requirements at the time of the convention:

Be a member of a Lutheran congregation and be enrolled in high school or college/seminary.

**OR**

Be enrolled in a Lutheran high school or college/seminary.

To apply, please have the student send a letter to the address below explaining why he/she would like to attend the convention. Include an e-mail address that we may use to contact the student. The deadline for application is October 6, 2003. There is no guarantee of financial assistance given or implied. Send applications to:

**Hank Scheuermann**  
**National Convention Student Assistance Fund**  
**19308 Davinwood**  
**Cleveland, OH 44135-1014**

If you have any questions, please contact Ed Szeto at 888-364-LIFE (5433) or [eszeto@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:eszeto@lutheransforlife.org).

## Twenty-First National Lutherans For Life Convention

**November 7 - 9, 2003**

**Holiday Inn  
 Central I-80  
 Omaha, Nebraska**



Join hundreds of Lutherans from around the country in Omaha, Nebraska, for a weekend filled with fellowship, encouragement, and enlightenment!

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 • **Linda Bartlett**, LFL President • **Greg Koukl**, Stand to Reason • **Leslee Unruh**, Abstinence Clearinghouse  
 • **Brian Young**, Creation Instruction Association  
 • **Rev. David Paape**, A Place of Refuge • **Dr. Robert Weise**, Chair of Pastoral Ministry and the Life Sciences, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis • **Chuck Asay**, Editorial Cartoonist, *Gazette Telegraph*, Colorado Springs  
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 • Pastors Panel and MORE!!!

For a convention brochure with registration form call (888) 364-LIFE, e-mail [info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org), or check out the LFL web site at [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org).

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*  
*Jeremiah 29:11*

**See you in Omaha, Nebraska!**



## LFL Endowment Fund

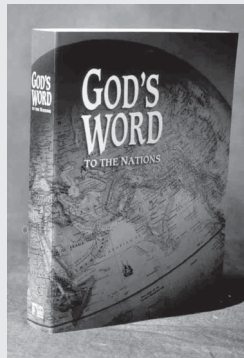
The fund receives gifts and bequests and uses the interest accrued from them for the mission and ministry of LFL. The income from unrestricted gifts to the fund may be used for the purposes, projects, and programs as recommended by the Endowment Fund Committee.

Your gifts – large or small – through checks, stocks, bonds, real estate, bequests, insurance, etc., will help LFL continue to share the message that each human life – created by God and redeemed by Jesus Christ – is to be protected! **You can make a difference!**

To find out more contact National LFL!

## GOD'S WORD For Life!

This first-of-its-kind publishing endeavor could help save thousands and thousands of preborn babies from being aborted. It will help in sharing the forgiving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the thousands of women and men affected by an abortion decision. It will give the pro-life movement a much-needed tool to change people's hearts and attitudes so those abortion decisions are never even made.



**Funds are needed to pay for the pre-production work and the 1<sup>st</sup> printings of GOD'S WORD For Life!**

**To help, please send your check (made payable to "LFL Pro-Life Bible") to Lutherans For Life, 1120 South G Avenue, Nevada, IA 50201-2774.**

With your help and prayers *GOD'S WORD of Life* will become a reality!

### **A new way to help! BIBLE READING MARATHON!**

Help raise funds for *GOD'S WORD For Life* and share Scripture at the same time! Call National LFL to find out more!

## Adoption Resources

Lutherans For Life is not an adoption agency.

However, we recommend the following national adoption resources/agencies.

For additional agencies and information please contact Lutherans For Life.

888-364-LIFE  
info@lutheransforlife.org



**Adoption.Com** - <http://www.adoption.com/>

**Christian Adopt** - [www.ilovejesus.com/missions/adopt](http://www.ilovejesus.com/missions/adopt)

**Bethany Christian Services** - [www.bethany.org](http://www.bethany.org)

**National Adoption Center** - [www.adopt.org/adopt](http://www.adopt.org/adopt)

**Never write  
another  
donation  
check!**

*Simply Giving*<sup>®</sup>

You won't have to, with the **Simply Giving**<sup>®</sup> program from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Your gift to Lutherans For Life can be made through electronic funds transfer from your checking or savings account. And because contributions are made in regular, more manageable amounts, your gift can lead to a larger total donation. Contact Lutherans For Life for information about this free service from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.



### **Lutherans For Life Council of State Federation Presidents**

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## BECOME A PART OF LUTHERANS FOR LIFE TODAY!



**Yes! I want to join LFL...**

Please select a membership category: (✓)

\_\_\_ **Annual:** \$35 \$50 \$75 Other \$ \_\_\_ enclosed.

*Any amount is welcome!*

**Note: Membership contributions are shared with LFL Chapters and State Federations.**  
(Memberships/contributions are tax-deductible.)

\_\_\_ **Sponsor:** I commit to a monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_.

I'm not interested in membership but am enclosing a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_ to support the national efforts of LFL.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Name/# (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Church Body AALC AFLC CLBA ELCA  
LCMS Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to: Lutherans For Life**  
**1120 South G Avenue • Nevada, IA 50201-2774**

### Have you drafted a Will or Living Trust?

Estate Planning, Wills, and Living Trusts not only help families – both before and after the death of a loved one – they also can be of help to ministries such as Lutherans For Life.

Contact LFL for (no obligation) information on how you can accomplish personal and family goals through: *Special Tax-Qualified Trusts (Planned Gifts), Charitable Gift Annuities (Life-Income Agreements), Endowments and Memorial Plans, and other individual plans.*

**(888) 364-LIFE • info@lutheransforlife.org**

## Spotlight on Lutherans For Life

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

**Marlene Althoff** by Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Gunderson; **JoAnna Baysinger** by Paul & Brenda Rathmann; **Sue Doennig** by Calvin & Mabel Fiesch; **Becky Ehlers** by Marianne L. Peters; **Jean Filter** by Lou & Miriam Kuhlmann; **Martha & Julius Gilge** by Conrad & Bernice Roder; **Dale Hartwig** by Hugo & Muriel Armbrecht, Dorothy Edler; **Allen Fredrick Jass** by Jerry & Ann Jungck; **Ed Kemna's mother** by Kathy Anderson, Marv & Leann Cummins, Ed Kemna, Bob & Marilyn Pickard, Sharon Truewe; **William Kirk** by Diane Wolford; **Mrs. Dorothy Kirkland** by Mr. & Mrs. James Queen; **Alfred Krause** by Allan & Donna Benson; **Elmer J. Krauss** by Mr. & Mrs. Harold W. Krauss; **Robert Lamb** by Beatrice Lamb, James & RoxAnne Lamb; **Charlotte Larson** by Rev. & Mrs. John Ramsey; **Amanda Livingston** by Faith "Viera" Lutheran Church, **Rev. Frank Maurer** by Norfolk Area Lutherans For Life; **Terry Maynard** by Peter Maynard; **Lyle McCutcheon** by Rev. & Mrs. Gerhardt Hallman; **Mr. Sandor Nemeth** by Ron & Carol Jochimsen, Mrs. Alice Tepe; **Marvin Neuharth** by Doug & Lynette Auch; **Rev. Thomas A. Part** by Ron & Carol Jochimsen; **Helen Peters** by Vickie & Mart Muehl; **Howard R. Peters** by Tom & Linda Daugharty, John & Kathy Seutter; **Ileen Peters** by Mr. Kenneth Peters; **Vicar Terry Reaman** by Rev. & Mrs. Bruce Lakamp; **Mary & Conrad Roder** by Conrad & Bernice Roder; **Dorothy Russell** by Duane & Irene Daubendiek; **Marvin Saylor** by Doug & Lynette Auch; **Ted Schmidt** by Jan & Duane Manzey; **LaVerne Schroeder** by Doug & Lynette Auch; **Andrea Urbach** by Doug & Lynette Auch; **Edna Weiner** by Kenneth & Frances Beer; **Irene Wende** by family & friends, Verna & Fritz Thies; **Helene Agnes Wenzel** by Glennis Stern; **Margaret West** by Rev. & Mrs. Marvin Flanscha, Erma Ockenga, Phyllis Terry; **Florian A. Wilcox** by Deb Rohne; **Delores Wyatt** by Hugo & Muriel Armbrecht

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**Mission Statement:** The mission of Lutherans For Life (LFL) is to witness to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God. LFL has 15 state federations, 155 local chapters, and 690 Life Ministry Coordinators in the United States.

**Statement of 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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## Lutherans For Life

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	Adoption Resources

“When does life begin? It is as simple as the 3Bs. **Biology** and the **Bible** tell us that life begins at the moment of conception. **Baptism** marks the beginning of new spiritual life. These are inseparably linked. **Baptism** and faith enable us to see the truth of what God has revealed in the **Bible**. That truth enables us to see all human life as valued by God from the moment of conception. That truth enables us to live our lives trusting in promises rather than being overwhelmed by our circumstances.”

From *The 3Bs of When Life Begins*,  
by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb  
see page 4



**HELP WANTED! Be a Life Ministry Coordinator!** The **Life Ministry Coordinator** program needs people in local congregations who want to share the For Life message.  
**Contact LFL to find out more! 888-364-LIFE**  
**info@lutheransforlife.org**