

LifeDate

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



Fall 2007

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

Real World Adoption

see pages 4-5

page 2

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

Rescuing Embryos through Adoption

page 3

Diane E. Schroeder

Letter from a Birth Mom

pages 4-7

Abortion/Post-Abortion/Alternatives

Janette Clausen: Real World Adoption

A Selfless Choice: A Celebration of Adoption

pages 8-9

Bioethics/Creation

Cleone Weigand: God, the Orderly Artist

Stem Cell Update

pages 10-11

**Lutherans For Life Resources – including
Adoption Resources!**

page 12

End-of-Life

Man “Awakened” After Six Years of
Semi-Consciousness

pages 13

Family Life

Charles Colson: The Me-Centered Family –
A Disaster in the Making

page 14

World News

pages 15-18

Spotlight on Lutherans For Life

Youth Speak Up For Life!

Linda D. Bartlett: Adopted Sons and Daughters

Karen L. Frohwein: Opportunities
In the Hand of God

page 19

Life Thoughts in the Church Year



Rescuing Embryos through Adoption

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

Lutherans For Life has a position statement favoring embryonic adoption. We arrived at this based on the fact that in God's pro-creative biological process, a human being comes into existence at conception. This is supported by the science of embryology as reflected in textbooks used in medical schools. Scripture affirms this biological fact through the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Jesus began His life as a human being from the moment of His conception as an embryo in the Virgin Mary.

Jesus' conception as a holy embryo was necessitated by our conception as an unholy embryo. **"Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me"** (Psalm 51:5 NIV). Thus, every time we speak in the Apostle's Creed "conceived by the Holy Spirit," we not only attest to the divinity of Jesus at the moment of conception, but also to our humanity from that moment. Our sinfulness testifies to our humanity at conception. Jesus' incarnation testifies to our humanity at conception.

In this sense, then, there is little difference between adopting an embryo and adopting an infant or older child. Neither our size nor our location determines our humanness. If we oppose the killing of human embryos because they are human beings, why should we oppose adopting human embryos?

One concern, however, comes from the source of these embryos. During the normal in vitro fertilization (IVF) process, many eggs are retrieved and many embryos are formed. Those not used are frozen. This presents a problem for the Christian. As my good friend and seminary professor Dr. Robert Weise likes to say, "You can't parent a frozen embryo." Christian parents conceive children to be brought up in "the instruction and discipline of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

The concern, then, is this: Will the knowledge that unused embryos will be adopted lead couples to have more embryos frozen? This is a legitimate concern. That is why I chose the title I did for this article. Instead of framing the issue in terms of "adopting embryos," it seems more realistic to frame it in terms of "rescuing embryos" through adoption. Such an approach recognizes their plight of being children without homes, facing certain death, and with no one to parent them. In other words, these are not "cute children" who need adopting. They are children placed in peril who need rescuing. Maybe talking about it this way would help provide these tiny children with adoptive parents without encouraging biological parents

to freeze their tiny children.

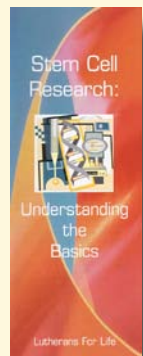
If you want to study this issue in more depth, Dr. Weise has an excellent article in the July 2007 *Concordia Journal*. He covers the biological, medical, legal, and theological aspects of embryo adoption. You can find this online at: www.csl.edu/Img/Publications/cjuly07.pdf.

You may also want to learn more about the actual adoption (rescue) process at www.nightlight.org.



STEM CELL / CLONING BROCHURES

Stem Cell Research: Understanding the Basics – God's Word does have something to say about embryonic stem cell research. However, a basic understanding of the biology involved is necessary first. So welcome to Embryonic Stem Cell Biology 101! *Item 1000T. \$0.25 ea.*



Cloning: Understanding the Basics helps you sort out some of the confusing language used in the cloning debate so that you will be able to apply God's truths to the issue of cloning. *Item 1001T. \$0.25 ea.*

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Letter from a Birth Mom

by Diane E. Schroeder
President, National Lutherans For Life

Adoption has always been very close to my heart. In my family I have three adopted cousins and Carl and I have four adopted children: two Caucasians adopted domestically and two Koreans through international adoption. Adoption has been used for generations as a God-pleasing way to create a family, but, unfortunately, it is not well understood in our society. Adoption is perceived as a way to get rid of unwanted children. Children who are placed for adoption are told by our society that they were “given away” or “put up” for adoption as if they were inhuman. I have been told by well-meaning, but rude strangers that my Korean children were very lucky that we had adopted them, to which I responded, “No, we are blessed to have them.” When friends suggested that hopefully someday Carl and I would have children of our own, we replied, “But these *ARE* our children.”

Women who place their children for adoption are sometimes viewed as bad mothers who don't really love their child. Birth moms are asked, “How could you give your child away?” This negative attitude toward adoption in our country has made a difference in the number of women who choose adoption for their babies. Many women in a crisis pregnancy would rather abort their child than carry their baby for nine months and then “give it away.” Unbelievably, abortion many times is construed to be a more of a loving option than adoption.

This phenomenon will not change until our society recognizes that adoption is a painful, sacrificial decision made by a loving mother for the sake of her child. I have the most respect for the birth moms of my four children and have always told my children the truth—that their moms loved them so much that they made a plan to provide them with a better future than they could give. The following is translated from a letter written by a Korean birth mom to her child.

“It is hard for me to write this letter. I hope you will remember that every decision I made, I made for



(l-r) Paul, Michael, Rebekah, and Elizabeth Schroeder at Michael's Purdue University graduation in May 2005.

you. I don't think the reason that I placed you for adoption was because I didn't love you. It was really a hard decision for me, but I think my decision was right for you. As your mother I was always concerned about you. There was no way for us to live together. I preferred to say good-bye to you rather than to live with you, if that decision could bring you better opportunities. And that's why I decided to place you with others. Looking into adoption, I realized that you would get something that I could not provide—a family. You needed to be loved by family members, and you could have that love only if you were in a family. I couldn't give that love by myself. Therefore, adoption was my gift to you. Please don't forget that I love you. I'll love you and worry about you forever.”

Education is greatly needed in our society and it can start with you. I make it a personal practice that whenever I hear negative adoption language, I gently correct that individual by saying, “She did not ‘put up’ her child, she made an adoption plan to provide for her child.” I encourage my children to be proud of their adoption because that is part of God's plan for their lives. They are no different than anyone else. They are not mistakes that were given away. God knew my children before the world began, they are precious to Him. He ordained every one of their days before one of them came to be. Christ died for them as he died for all people. So LFLers—be alert, be sensitive, you never know who you might be talking to—perhaps a future birth mom or her family. Speak out and make a difference for adoption!

Our Mission . . . To witness to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God. LFL has 15 state federations, 151 local chapters, and 198 Life Ministry Coordinators in the United States.

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

Our Philosophy . . . Lutherans For Life believes that the Church is compelled by God's Word to speak and act on behalf of those who are vulnerable and defenseless. The crisis of our times is the repudiation of biblical truth manifested in the wanton destruction of innocent human life through legalized abortion-on-demand and the growing threat to the lives of others through legalized assisted suicide and euthanasia. Therefore, as Lutherans For Life, we will strive to give witness, from a biblical perspective, to the Church and society on these and other related issues such as chastity, post-abortion healing, and family living.

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Real World Adoption

by Janette Clausen, LBSW, Director of Pregnancy Counseling and Adoptions, Lutheran Family Service of Iowa

Mom, dad . . . I think I might be pregnant.

Tough decisions follow such a life-changing statement. It's not an easy road, but one that many families will walk—yet not a road they need to walk alone! Jesus promises, **“I will never leave you nor forsake you”** (Hebrews 13:5). When facing life-changing decisions, Jesus Himself is there to walk with us. While the names are fictitious, the following are real life stories from those who made this journey.

Sharon, mother of a pregnant teen

That day at the doctor's clinic, the word “pregnant” cut through my gut like a knife. My head was spinning as we left. *How could this have happened? There has to be a mistake . . . not my daughter! Not now!*

Over the next few weeks, my emotions ranged from sadness, to disappointment, to fear, and then to intense anger. I was devastated, feeling like I failed as her mother. I was angry with Tonya for making a choice that betrayed our trust in her, and a choice that changed all of our lives so profoundly.

Reality sank in as we told our other children, Tonya's grandparents, and our friends. Each time I witnessed the shock in their eyes at the news, I relived the trauma of that day in the doctor's clinic. Questions filled my mind. *How will this affect Tonya? Will she be able to manage school and this child? What about the school sports she participates in that are so important to her? Will she be able to keep her job? How will this affect her younger siblings? What will people think of her—of us? Will we ever be able to just go back to being the family we were?*

Many of Tonya's friends were excited and supportive—some over-exuberant in their reaction. Several were judgmental and a few were mean-spirited. Tonya had to shoulder each one, whether she was feeling nauseated and tired or not.

Our pastor put us in touch with a crisis pregnancy counselor. After several visits with her, we were able to focus on what really mattered—what is best for our daughter and for our first grandchild. We realized that while Tonya's life was indeed changing, it was not finished. We had to help her put the pieces in order.

As we faced the reality of a decision between “team-raising” the child and placing the baby with a family

through adoption, the strong, conflicting emotions started all over again—and were, at times, completely overwhelming. Yet, we had to explore what might be the best plan for this baby who would soon change into a child, then an adolescent, then a young adult just as quickly as our own Tonya had.

Jessica, pregnant college student

I realized I was pregnant after a few months of denying that it could ever happen to me. I am going to college, feeling very stressed out, unable to concentrate.

Telling my parents was the toughest thing I ever did. I could feel their disappointment and anger for weeks. Then somewhere in the whole mess of things, they started talking about having a grandchild, their willingness to help me so I can stay in school, and how I had better get busy buying the stuff I will need for the baby.

How could I tell them that I just don't think I want to be a parent yet, that I am just not ready? Every time I

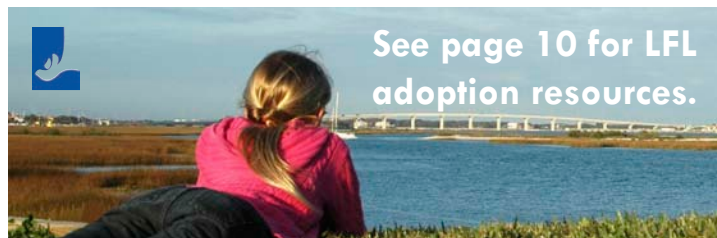
try to say something about it, mom assures me I will do fine, and that they will help me. I want to believe her and I want so much to make them proud of me again.

If I am going to be a parent, I will have to stop doing what my friends are doing—talking and dreaming about where they will live and work after college, what kind of salaries they can expect, and how they will relax, travel, and play after graduation. Some are getting married.

My boyfriend has also become excited about having this baby. He seems to have it all figured out—he will cut back in school hours so he can work more. He says he will come to spend every weekend with me and the baby, like we would live happily ever after. I've been thinking about whether or not I *really* want to be his partner for the rest of my life. I feel guilty, scared, and resentful—about everything!

My baby is growing inside of me. I have heard her heartbeat and I have seen her face on ultrasound. Everyone seems to welcome the idea of her more than I do myself, and I feel like a horrible person. I have a gnawing feeling that I am not ready to be a parent, and that I might not be the best mom for my baby now.

My parents call it selfish; my friends call it cruel, as if I did not love her. No one understands. If I am not ready to give everything to parenting, how can I give my unborn daughter what she really deserves—the best?! I couldn't love her more—I didn't know that I could feel so strongly. So it is not about love . . . it is about not being able to be the kind of parent I want to be—not yet anyway!



I cannot give to my daughter what I want most for her—the benefit of two parents who love each other, who are happily married and financial stable. My parents will have to help me a lot. I have so many questions.

Jackie, mother of a birthfather

“Jill is pregnant,” my husband said. Our son, Bryan, and Jill had been dating for six months, and while we certainly liked Jill, we had a feeling they were too serious. I fumbled for a response, but could only stare in disbelief.

Months later they mentioned adoption, and I suddenly realized that Jill was *NOT* trying to trap Bryan as I had first suspected. Now I became angry that she was implying she was not willing to commit to my son or to his child—*MY* grandchild. What kind of a person could think that way?

While I had recently become very accustomed to my freedom since our kids are on their own more, I knew I would need to I return to schedules, bottles, diapers, and sleepless nights in order to keep my grandchild. Bryan said he did not want to choose adoption, but he knew he could not take care of a baby, and Jill continued saying she just wasn’t ready. I would raise this child until Bryan was ready, with or without Jill.

It seemed like a good plan or at least the best that there could be for now. About the time I was sure of that, my neighbor told me about a couple in our community who had been trying for years to conceive a child, but after infertility treatments and several miscarriages, they were beginning to check into adoption. They each have good jobs, are well-respected in the community, and are active in their church. They are so friendly to others, and act loving to each other, like they truly have great relationship “glue”.

At first, the thought chilled me, but I began to consider some questions: *Are these the kind of people who want to adopt? Is there a way to place for adoption and still stay connected to this child? Could this be a way our baby could have a mom and a dad who love each other in one home, who would meet the challenges of parenting and would be able to still enjoy and love the child?*

Andy, birthfather

When Jaymie got pregnant, I first wanted her to have an abortion. There was just no way we could have a kid. I was mad when Jaymie got cold feet on getting an abortion. I mean, how could she mess with my life like that? We both had plans, and we talked about our dreams

many times. Our plans did not include a baby. Ending the pregnancy would have solved the problem.

But after Jaymie told her parents and we told some friends, it sunk in a little better. A lot of friends even congratulated us, which made me feel good. I felt grown-up—manly, I guess. It could be pretty cool—my son calling me daddy, looking up to me, and me teaching him things. There was a baby inside Jaymie, growing and changing, and I was the father. As scary and unplanned as it was, there was something awesome about it.

Adults told me it would be tough going, and I knew that. But somehow things could work out—with some help from our parents and financial assistance programs until I finished school and got a job.

I get irritated when I get pressured about the future. Jaymie and I are not ready to get married . . . Many kids have two parents in different homes. I am sure Jaymie and I can get along for our son’s sake no matter what happens to us.

We may not be able to give our son the moon, but he will have everything he needs—clothes, formula, diapers, child care, doctor care, and medicine. I will be able to see him often at Jaymie’s home, and maybe he could stay over at my apartment sometimes.



In every unplanned pregnancy, there are bound to be mixed and conflicting emotions for each person close to the situation. Feelings are powerful, but feelings change for each person over time. Basing a decision on emotions alone is risky at best. It often feels impossible to make a good long-term decision that will affect everyone’s future while negotiating the awkward dance of everyone’s emotions.

If your family, or a family you know, is faced with an unplanned pregnancy, be aware of the many strong and conflicting feelings they will experience. Be supportive, understanding, and non-judgmental, and help them find a professional pregnancy counselor for help in sorting it all out. Professional pregnancy counselors don’t make decisions for families or tell families what to do. They seek to help each family member identify their own changing feelings and cope with the fear of the unknown that lies ahead. They help families communicate with each other through their feelings. When people take the time to hear each other and respect the fears, thoughts, and feelings of each person involved, the odds of making a solid decision that is based on what is best for the unborn child greatly increases. And remind them that they do not walk alone!

A Selfless Choice: In Celebration of Adoption

by Ken Connor, Chairman of the Center for a Just Society

In the aftermath of the Supreme Court decision upholding the ban on partial birth abortion, proponents of abortion have reacted as if the sky were falling. Abortion proponents have grimly announced that a “woman’s right to choose” is in peril. Of course, they speak about the “right to choose” only in the abstract; they are careful not to identify the choice they have in view.

The morality of any “choice” under consideration, however, cannot be divorced from the thing that is being chosen. Choices are not mere abstractions. They are concrete, and they have consequences. Let’s not kid ourselves about what is at stake in the “choice” debate. When abortion advocates talk about the “right to choose,” they are not talking about the right to choose between chocolate and vanilla. They are talking about the right to choose to kill an innocent, unborn child. The fact that a mother would contemplate killing her child, and that there are those who zealously advocate such a “choice,” is evidence that something has gone very, very wrong in our society. As the Feminists for Life slogan puts it, “women deserve better than abortion.” Indeed they do, and so do their children.

Adoption is an option that is not discussed nearly enough in the public debate about “choice.” Rarely is the case for adoption made with the same vigor as the case for abortion. Part of the zeal for abortion is fueled by money. We should never forget that abortion is a multi-million dollar industry. With that kind of money at stake, it is easy to see why abortion proponents get so pumped up.

In the abortion debate, Americans are being asked to choose between a woman and her child. We are asked to come down on one side or the other. The debate is framed as an “either/or” proposition. When the adoption option is introduced, however, the debate is transformed into a “both/and” proposition. We do not have to choose between a woman and her child. Our hearts are big enough to love them both.

Adoption is truly a win/win/win situation. With adoption, the child “wins” because he or she is not only given the chance to live, but to live in a home with loving parents who can provide for his or her needs. Adoption is also a win for those couples who choose to adopt because they have the benefit of a precious new life to nurture. Finally, adoption is a win for the birth mother because she benefits from knowing that she has made the mature and beautiful choice of giving life to a child, providing for that child by finding a safe and happy home, and selflessly sharing that new life with others. When adoptions are done right they are occasions for joy all around.

Studies have shown that children who were born out-of-wedlock but are raised by adoptive parents do better in a number of categories than those who are raised by single mothers. They attain higher levels of education, have higher self-esteem, and enjoy better health. Similarly, adoption is also good for birth mothers. Such women are more likely to be employed a year after the adoption, more likely to complete their educations, and they are more likely to express overall satisfaction with life than their single-mother counterparts.

Despite all its advantages, adoption has fallen on hard times. According to research, there has been a precipitous drop in adoption since the year 1973 when abortion was legalized across America. Before 1973, 8.7 percent of children born out-of-wedlock were



placed for adoption. Recent statistics put the number at around one-percent. This huge drop in adoption has many causes. First, there is less social stigma than there used to be attached to the idea of raising a child as a single parent. Second, there is more social pressure in favor of abortion today than there was in the past. Third, there is a lack of information about adoption provided to women who find themselves in a crisis pregnancy. Forth, adoption can be legally confusing and expensive. There are any number of other reasons that can be added to this list.

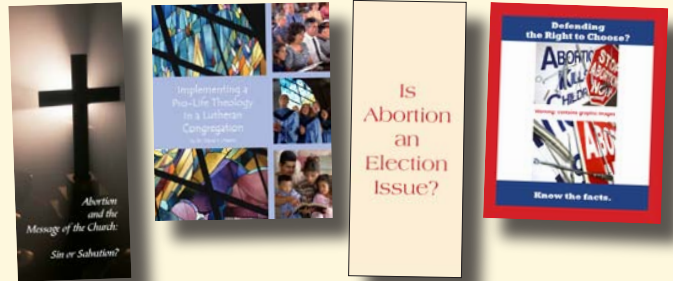
One matter that should be of significant concern for the pro-life movement is that young women facing crisis pregnancies often have false ideas about adoption. A study commissioned by Family Research Council several years ago, entitled *The Missing Piece: Adoption Counseling in Pregnancy Resource Centers*, did a magnificent job of shedding light on the painful assumptions that many women have when it comes to adoption. Women in crisis pregnancies tend to think of adoption as an abandonment of their child. They are often convinced that no other family can love their child as much as they do. They have heard horror stories about children mistreated by adoptive parents, and they assume that to place a child for adoption is to simply give the child away without any control over where he or she is placed. Many women do not think they are strong enough to “give away” their children, that it is too great of a sacrifice, and that abortion is actually easier than adoption. *The Missing Piece* also found, however, that more emotionally mature women were usually in a better position to seriously consider the option of adoption. They were able to see that by choosing adoption they were putting their child’s needs over their own.

Women facing crisis pregnancies need to know that, today, placing their child for adoption is not simply handing the baby over without any knowledge of how he or she will be raised. The modern adoption process frequently gives pregnant women an opportunity to be a big part of the process. These days, mothers are often afforded the opportunity to help choose the type of family in which their child will be placed. And many women who choose adoption are often allowed to maintain an element of continuing involvement that helps them know that they are not in any way abandoning their baby.

Sadly, we do not spend enough time celebrating women who make such a mature and strong choice in favor of life. Needless to say, thousands of lives across America attest to the success of adoption. It is one thing to demand a right to choose; it is another thing to choose well. Here’s to the mothers who have chosen life and shared that life with others!

(Ideas in Action, Center for a Just Society, 5/11/07)

November is National Adoption Month! See resources on page 10!



Abortion and the Message of the Church: Sin or Salvation? – Dr. James I. Lamb shows that throughout history the Church has called abortion sin—until recently. Abortion creates guilt and despair to which the Church must apply its most powerful message, the Gospel of Jesus. *Item 205T. \$0.25 ea.*

Implementing a Pro-Life Theology in a Lutheran Congregation – Dr. David L. Adams says it is time for the Church to put its pro-life convictions into action! This booklet outlines a way to do just that! *Item 208B. \$0.75 ea.*

Is Abortion an Election Issue? – Abortion is a sin against the Author and Giver of Life. That makes abortion a spiritual issue—not just an election issue. By Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb. *Item 118T. \$0.25 ea.*

Defending the Right to Choose? / Know the Facts – Defending the phrase “a woman’s right to choose” requires knowledge. The purpose of this booklet is to help people understand what defending the “right to choose” involves. *Item 124T. \$0.75 ea.* (Note: contains graphic images.)

UNITED STATES ABORTION STATISTICS :

1,287,000 abortions per year.
3,526 abortions per day.
147 abortions per hour.
1 abortion every 24 seconds.



**Abortions from 1973-2005:
45,888,300**

Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute.
(The 2003 estimate was used for 2004 and 2005.)

God, the Orderly Artist

(an excerpt from "CREATION") by Cleone Weigand

When we look at creation around us and then study the way God made all things, as described in Scripture, we are impressed with this truth that the living God is a God of order [1 Corinthians 14:33]. God proceeded much like an artist about to produce a beautiful set of pottery. The artist begins with a lump of clay and then proceeds step by step in mixing it, molding it, doing the fine decorating, and finally firing it. The artist then proceeds with vessel after vessel until the whole set is finished to his or her satisfaction. When God spoke of the way he molds the nations, he had His inspired prophet Jeremiah use the example of a potter (Jeremiah 18). So also we see God, the potter, busy in a way typical of the Lord when we read the account of creation in the Bible. He began by creating the clay, all the "original stuff." Then, step by step, he organized things and fashioned the marvel we call the universe.

God's calling into existence this stuff of the universe is described by these words of Scripture: **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters"** (Genesis 1:1,2 NIV). What mighty and unnatural acts those acts of creation were! We embrace them as true only by the gift of faith! **"By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible"** (Hebrews 11:3).

Creation out of nothing

It seems obvious from these verses that when God began His creation there was emptiness, a void, nothing to see. Then, from nothing, He filled this void with what He had planned to construct. This teaching of "creation from nothing" (Latin: *ex nihilo*) has sometimes been contested by people who embrace other ways of interpreting Genesis chapters 1 and 2. However, it is difficult to take what seems so obvious from the creation account and all the other references to creation in Scripture and twist it into something different. The scholar revered as the father of modern Hebrew lexicography [William Gesenius] wrote, "The first verse of Genesis teaches that the original creation of the world in its rude, chaotic state was from nothing, while in the remainder of the chapter, the elaboration and distribution of matter thus created is taught, the connection of the whole section shows sufficiently clearly."

Creation by the Word

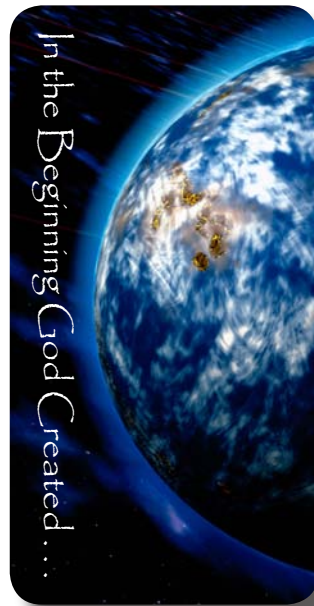
In the beginning everything was created out of nothing, and the power that did this was the power of the eternal God's almighty creating word. God spoke, and the universe came into being. The Genesis creation account repeats over and over, "God said." First God said, **"Let there be light"** (1:3). Then he said, **"Let there be an expanse"** (verse 6). Again and again, "God said." It was through the power of His almighty Word that God created everything . . . Lutheran Christians often stress that the Word of God is powerful. We trust that the Word of God has the power to create and preserve faith in us. In the Creation account we see evidence that the Word of God truly is powerful! It was through His Word that God called all things into being. We can surely trust that the Word of God still has great power for us today.

Jesus was involved

John's gospel also speaks about creation through "the Word." **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made"** (1:13 NIV). Here, however, the Word is a title for Jesus. Jesus is the one through whom God predominately "speaks" to the world. This passage teaches that Jesus was involved in the creation of all things. All things were made "through him."

Other Scripture passages also indicate that Jesus was involved in creation. In Colossians, Paul says about Jesus, **"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him"** (1:15,16). Hebrews says, **"In these last days he [God] has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe"** (1:2). These passages clearly show that our Savior Jesus is true God and eternal.

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Read more in

CREATION - God Made All Things.

Discover that even though the material world is beautiful and good, the invisible world is often more wonderful and precious. **CREATION** is a wonderful read!

Item 202B. \$10.99 ea.



Stem Cell Update

Patents Being Mislead About Embryonic Stem Cell Research Benefits

A prominent neurologist in Ireland says patients with incurable diseases are being misled about how embryonic stem cell research could possibly help them. In the *Irish Medical Times*, Dr. Orla Hardiman said some of her patients have been “exploited” by the stem cell industry and have traveled to foreign countries with the hope that miracle cures will alleviate their medical issues. “It is important to put into context the potential benefits, but also the current limitations, in the use of stem cells,” said Dr. Hardiman, a consultant neurologist in Beaumont Hospital. “I’ve had patients who have raised money to go to places like Ukraine or Rotterdam in the vain hope that stem cell therapy is going to cure their incurable disease. I think it’s very important to be clear about what stem cells can do.” Dr. Hardiman said that the potential exists for stem cell research to bring forth benefits for patients with neurological disorders, it is “very premature” to think about stem cells curing certain ones. “There are just a lot of technical and logistical problems in figuring out how best to manage stem cells, where to get them, and, when you get them, how to manipulate them to turn into the cells you want them to turn into,” she said.

(LifeNews.com, 7/18)

Adult Stem Cell Research Continues to Show Promising Results: Helps Heart Disease, Amyloidosis Patients

Two new studies show the continued benefits of adult stem cell research and how the ethical counterpart to the use of embryonic stem cells can help patients. The new studies show the use of adult stem cells in helping amyloidosis patients and those who suffer from heart disease.

The first study, conducted by scientists at the Minneapolis Heart Institute and reported in the journal *Circulation*, finds the research helping patients with angina, or pain due to artery blockage.

The results found enhancement of blood flow to the heart and an overall improvement in the quality of life after an injection of purified stem cells.

Meanwhile, researchers at Boston University Medical Center found that blood stem cell transplantation can help treat patients with immunoglobulin-light chain (AL) Amyloidosis who did not respond to initial treatment.

The researchers enrolled 62 patients on this trial. Seventeen patients—who had not received a complete remission from their initial treatment—received a second course of high-dose chemotherapy and blood stem cell transplantation.

Of the 17, five (31 percent) were successfully treated and achieved a complete hematologic remission of their amyloidosis after receiving a second course of treatment.

(LifeNews.com, 7/3)

Adult Stem Cell Research Shows Progress in Treating Cornea Disorders

A new process was designed in the Area of Cellular Therapy of the University Clinic at the University of Navarra. Ana Fernández Hortelano, an ophthalmologist at the hospital, applied the adult stem cell growth technique in treating 70 rabbits and trying to restore the damaged epithelium and restore transparency to the cornea. The results to date achieved among the group of rabbits, with induced limbic insufficiency and which then had a transplant of adult stem cells, showed recovery of the corneal epithelium in 60 percent of the treated animals.

(LifeNews.com, 7/24)

Umbilical Cord Stem Cells Treat Type 1 Diabetes

Researchers at the University of Florida College of Medicine studied twenty children aged between two and seven with type 1 diabetes, seven of whom were injected with umbilical cord blood cells. The researchers concluded the study suggests that the cells “jump-start” and correct the patient’s own immune system.

“This is the first attempt at using cord blood as a potential therapy for type 1 diabetes. We hope these cells can either lessen the immune system’s attack on the pancreas or possibly introduce stem cells that can differentiate into insulin-producing cells,” said the lead researcher, Dr. Michael Haller.

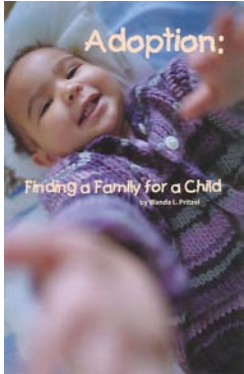
(LifeSiteNews.com, 7/29)

“He really presented the scientific evidence in a way that was so compelling . . . Not with big words, but just mind-boggling, as he spoke of the intricate design that God gives to things that are so small, even as small as a hair.

“But especially, he made the point that evolution and Christianity cannot co-exist . . . [quoting an atheist as saying] ‘Evolution undermines the Gospel. If there is no Adam, there is no fall. If there is no fall, there is no hell. If there is no hell, there is no need of Jesus as the second Adam and Savior. As a result, the whole biblical system of salvation collapses. Evolution thus becomes the most potent weapon for destroying the Christian faith.’” (LCMS Reporter Online, 7/17)

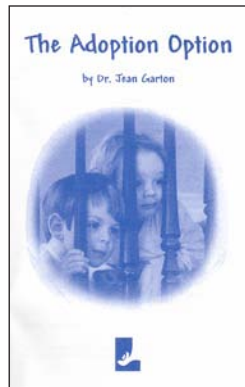
Rev. Ed Brandt, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ute, Iowa commenting on Dr. David Menton, a speaker at the 2007 LFL National Conference. For more on the conference see page 18.

ADOPTION BOOKLETS



Adoption: Finding a Family for a Child – In this booklet, Wanda L. Pritzel, Director of Operations for Lutheran Family Service of Iowa, explores the available adoption opportunities including: adopting an older child; adopting internationally; adopting an infant; adopting an embryo. She also discusses adoption resources and includes a list of “What Can We Do?” suggestions. *Item 503B. \$0.25 ea.*

The Adoption Option – Dr. Jean Garton explores the often forgotten option of adoption. “Adoption isn’t easy . . . Yet, [compared with] the other options—aborting the child or raising the child as a single parent—adoption is the most child-centered. It is a healthy, realistic, and sensible choice for all the parties involved.” *Item 500B. \$1.00 ea.*



ADOPTION BROCHURE

The Servanthood of Adoption – Adoption is not always seen in a good light. The perception is that adoption is abandonment, a bad choice that is not very loving. There is a need to shed some good light on adoption by looking at adoption in the light of biblical servanthood. *Item 501T. \$0.25 ea.*



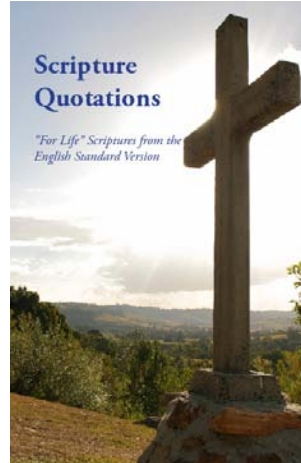
ADOPTION BULLETIN INSERT



Welcome a Little Child encourages adoption as a choice both mother and child can live with. The wonderful Shannon Wirrenga print, *I Sure Like Walking With You* is featured on the front. *Item 500BI. \$0.07 ea.*

November is National Adoption Month!

UPDATED BOOKLET!



Scripture Quotations (updated in June 2007), with quotes from the English Standard Version, shows: God is the Creator of all Life; Conception is God’s Gift; God is the Creator of the Un-born; Pre-Natal Life has Special Value and Stands in Relation to God; Jesus Loves the Little Children; God Does Not Justify Abortion or “Mercy Killing” in Cases of Rape, Incest, or Birth Defects; Life and Death Belong to the Province of God; Consequences of Practicing or Ignoring Injustice; Obey the Voice of God, Not the Ways of Men; Healing and Hope for Wrong Decisions; God’s Timing, Presence, and Hope in Human Suffering and Death. *Item 204T. \$1.50 ea.*

Obey the Voice of God, Not the Ways of Men; Healing and Hope for Wrong Decisions; God’s Timing, Presence, and Hope in Human Suffering and Death. *Item 204T. \$1.50 ea.*

UPDATED BROCHURES AND PROMISE CARD



In **Sidestepping Sin?** Pastor Thomas Parrish says “It is time that the leadership in the Church re-examine the Scriptures and return to a biblical standard of right and wrong. *Item 201T. \$0.25 ea.*



Grandparents and Abortion, by Linda Bartlett, shares how grandparents of pre-born children can make a difference when they respond in love. *Item 117T. \$0.25 ea.*

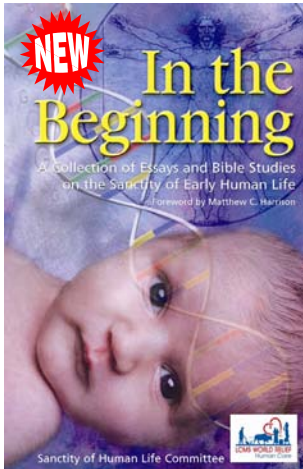


Women, Abortion, and the Church: Responsibilities and Rights says even some Christians consider abortion a compassionate solution—the lesser of two evils. Why, asks author Dr. Jean Garton, should we offer a woman an evil of any sort? *Item 201A. \$0.25 ea.*

Promise Cards offer a pledge to “save sex” for marriage. God’s promises are on the front, pledge and prayer on the back. Credit card size. *Item 602R. \$0.10 ea.*



NEW BIBLE STUDY BOOKLET!



In the Beginning – A Collection of Essays and Bible Studies on the Sanctity of Early Human Life is an eight-session Bible study using essays from Lutheran writers, theologians, and medical experts on topics such as when human life begins and the ethics of stem cell research. Following each essay is a related Bible study written by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life. Essay topics include:

- Creation: Made in God’s Image
- Justification: Life Through His Word
- Incarnation: Being Like Us in Every Way
- Conception: A Medical Analysis of Early Life
- Science: The Truth and Hype about Stem Cells
- Defining Terms: The Importance of Vocabulary in Pursuing Ethics
- Vocation: Serving God by Serving our Neighbor
- God’s Two Kingdoms: Honoring Life’s Value in Our World

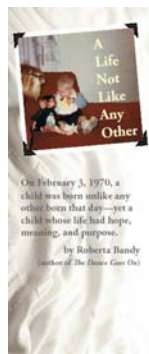
Item 1006BS. **\$7.99 ea.** (softcover)

Downloadable/reproducible version: **\$30.00 ea.** (available at www.lutheransforlife.org, see “Catalog,” then “Bioethics.”)

NEW BROCHURE!

In **A Life Not Like Any Other**, Roberta Bandy shares the story of her son, Rob, who was unlike any other child born that particular day—yet a child whose life had hope, meaning, and purpose. (Featured in the Fall 2006 edition of *LifeDate*.)

Item 1622. **\$0.25 ea.**



MONTHLY BULLETIN INSERT



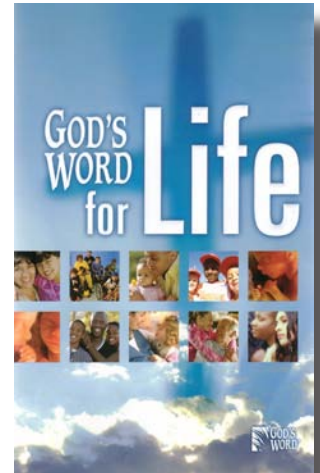
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GOD’S WORD for Life: Paperback – Item 1618. **\$15.00 ea.;** Hardcover – Item 1619. **\$20.00 ea.;** Leather Commemorative Edition – Item 1619C. **\$25.00 ea.**

www.lutheransforlife.org/gwfl.htm

PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS

Lutherans For Life has balloons, bookmarks, folders, logo pins, pencils, pens, stickers, and tote bags. Go to “Sharing the LFL Message” at our online catalog to find out more! These items are great for community exhibits, fairs, Sunday school, and Life Sunday!

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Man “Awakened” After Six Years of Semi-Consciousness

A severely brain-damaged man who was in a minimally conscious state for six years has recently regained new levels of awareness and physical capabilities after receiving electrical brain implants.

The unnamed 38-year old man had his head repeatedly kicked during a mugging in 1999 and was left unable to talk or move properly. In addition, he was kept alive on a feeding tube.

In a study led by Dr. Nicholas Schiff of Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University in New York, researchers conducted a treatment on him known as “deep brain stimulation.” This is a medical procedure that has been frequently used for patients with Parkinson’s disease and depression. During the stimulation process, two metal electrodes are inserted deep within the brain, which then give off electrical impulses. The patient in question is the first of twelve patients to undergo the treatment as part of the study.

In a seemingly miraculous recovery, the treatment stimulated parts of the man’s brain that were thought to be irrecoverable. As a consequence he can now watch a movie, drink from a cup, and say his parents’ names, NBC10 reports.

“My son can now eat or watch a movie without falling asleep,” the patient’s mother said. “He can express pain. He can cry, and he can laugh. The most important part is he can say ‘Mommy’ and ‘Pop.’”

According to DailyHealth News, study co-investigator Joseph Giacino, associate director of neuropsychology at JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute, stated, “Hopefully, this will now begin to open doors that were closed up to this point.”

He continued, “There’s a very nihilistic view that when a brain is badly damaged there’s not much we can do to change that. We have a very tough time getting research funded because of the need to jump higher than most other research. By demonstrating that we did move the bar in this patient this late, we hope that it’s going to force people to revisit this somewhat nihilistic view.”

The same treatment was also used on Terri Schiavo, but its lack of success was allegedly on account of her highly deteriorated condition. In an official statement at Terri’s death, however, Terri’s family, the Schindler’s, referred to the opinion of Dr. William Cheshire, a neurologist from the Mayo Clinic, who agreed with them that Terri was “awake, aware, and at least minimally cognitive.”

While the man in the present case was still in a semi-conscious state, he sometimes opened his eyes, moved his

thumb in response to questions, and according to some reports, shifted his limbs. In contrast, while Terri Schiavo was alive, her parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, testified that their daughter “reacts to them with tears and smiles and moves her head.”

Similarly, Priests for Life Director Father Frank Pavone, who visited Terri frequently while she was dying, stated, “She was very responsive to me, she closed her eyes when I prayed with her, she opened her eyes at the end of the prayer, she laughed at jokes, she returned the kisses of people who kissed her.”

Alex Schadenberg, executive director for Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, told LifeSiteNews.com that in the case of Terri Schiavo, “she was dehydrated to death. They said she was in coma, but was she really? She was certainly brain-damaged, but she was treated as if she was a living corpse. We don’t know whether Terry would have recovered.”

“We shouldn’t be giving up on these people,” he continued. “We don’t know enough about the brain to consider them dead.”

Schadenberg concluded, “Society has to make a decision. Are we going to make a commitment to these most vulnerable people, or are we going to treat them within cost-containment analysis?” If society makes the second choice, he said the same thing will happen to the most vulnerable as happened to Terri Schiavo. “How hard-hearted a society are we becoming?” he asked.

(LifeSiteNews.com, 8/2)

End-of-Life Booklets

Are you struggling with end-of-life decisions? Lutherans For Life has additional resources, including these well-received booklets. For more information:

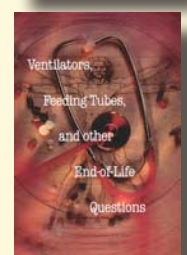
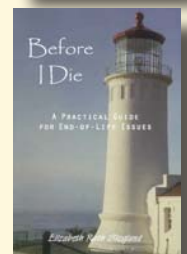
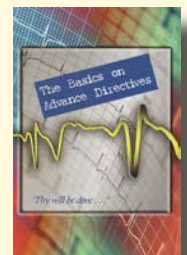
www.lutheransforlife.org.

The Basics on Advance Directives: “Thy Will Be Done” – This booklet has basic information about Living Wills and other advance directives. By Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb. *Item 807B. \$0.25 each.*

Before I Die - A Practical Guide for End-of-Life Issues – Noted author and licensed marriage and family therapist, Elizabeth Skoglund, shares principles for the Christian at life’s end along with words of encouragement.

Item 809B. \$2.00 each.

Ventilators, Feeding Tubes, and Other End-of-Life Questions – This booklet answers tough questions for individuals, families, and pastors. By Karen Rehder, M.D. and Linda Bartlett. *Item 800B. \$0.25 each.*



The Me-Centered Family – A Disaster in the Making

by Charles Colson

The lead in a recent *Washington Post* article paints a disturbing picture: “Children rank as the highest source of personal fulfillment for their parents but have dropped to one of the least-cited factors in a successful marriage, according to a national survey.”

What’s the matter with that sentence? Too much to unpack entirely in a few minutes, but let’s zero in on those two enticing words: “personal fulfillment.” The emphasis on that idea tells us a lot about what’s really wrong with marriage and family today.

As the article states, “The 88-page report . . . underscores a widening gap between parenthood and marriage—at a time when living together out of wedlock has grown increasingly common and nearly one in four births is to an unmarried woman.”

The author quotes several people who say that they think of marriage and children separately, not as a package deal. By a wide margin, the respondents in this survey still want children. They even realize that children need a mother and a father. But increasingly fewer of them are practicing what they say they believe. Why? Because they also believe that marriage is all about “mutual happiness and fulfillment” and “personal satisfaction” instead of the “bearing and raising of children.”

Do you see what’s missing here? Nothing about putting someone else first. Just marriage as something that makes you feel good—which, as anyone who’s been married will testify, isn’t an idea that works for very long. It’s no wonder that more and more couples have trouble committing to marriage, and that many who do are having trouble making their marriages last.

This is so ironic. We live in an era where romance seems to be on its deathbed and sexual relationships have become casual, ordinary business. Yet here we have a generation with such an impossibly romanticized view of marriage that they have to find the spouse who’s always wonderful and satisfying—or no spouse at all.

And it’s also no wonder that the idea trickles down to child-raising. People want children to satisfy their own needs, or not at all. You may remember that a while back I talked about two very different mothers: one of them risked her marriage and her health and spent a small fortune conceiving a child; the other was filing a “wrongful-birth” suit over a botched abortion—a child she didn’t want. At bottom,

I said, they both had the same idea: that a child was a commodity and that their right to self-fulfillment was their chief goal.

At least one married father quoted in this article, David Joyce, got it right when he said, “I think what we’re running into . . . is people saying, ‘[marriage] needs to be about me.’ And it doesn’t. It needs to be about ‘us’ or about ‘we.’ Anything that’s based on a ‘me’ scenario isn’t going to last very long.” Joyce is right.

So what kind of marriage lasts? A marriage in which the husband and the wife understand that marriage is about self-giving, not about self-satisfaction. That parenthood is a calling to self-sacrifice for the good of the child, not an avenue for self-fulfillment.

We need to start teaching our kids and young adults that me-centered families cannot survive. And instead of delivering happiness and self-fulfillment, the me-first attitude will bring, in the end, nothing but emptiness and a declining birthrate that will soon enough bring about the end of western civilization.

(From “BreakPoint,” July 13, 2007, reprinted with permission of Prison Fellowship, www.breakpoint.org.)



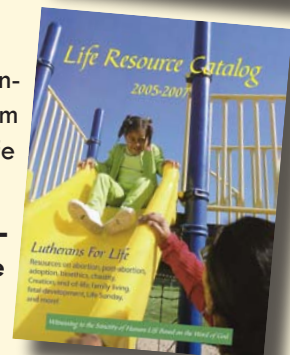
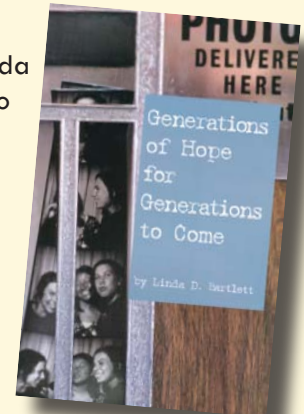
Generations of Hope for Generations to Come, by Linda Bartlett, can serve as a tool to help build a bridge between generations, an encouragement for LFL leaders, a motivation for parents, a promise to the faithful, a reason to take heart! Because of Jesus, people change, and changed people change the culture in which they live!

Item 906B. \$2.00 ea.

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China: Thousands of angry protesters have clashed with police in southern China after family planning teams imposed heavy fines on farmers with more than one child and confiscated or destroyed property if they were unable to pay. Up to 20,000 people are thought to have taken part in a demonstration in the Shapi township and there were demonstrations in at least three other townships in the Guangxi province. (*Scotsman*, 5/14; *ABC*, 5/21, *SPUC*, 5/23)

Scotland: Official figures show that the number of abortions carried out in Scotland is continuing to rise. There were 13,081 so-called therapeutic abortions in Scotland in 2006 compared with 12,603 in 2005. The rate is highest among women aged 16 to 19 (24.1 per 1000), and those aged 20 to 24 (23.6 per 1000). (*ic Scotland*, *SPUC Scotland*, 5/29; *SPUC*, 5/30)

England: Lord Winston, professor of fertility studies at Imperial College, London, has accused the IVF industry in the United Kingdom of being corrupt, and the regulatory Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority of failing to protect couples from exploitation. "One of the major problems facing us in healthcare is that IVF has become a massive commercial industry," he said. "It's very easy to exploit people by the fact that they're desperate and you've got the technology which they want, which may not work." (*Guardian*, *SPUC*, 5/31)

Uruguay: A campaign to legalize abortion is getting underway in Uruguay. Abortion is currently illegal in the Latin American country except in cases of rape, when the mother's life is endangered, or if she suffers severe economic hardship. President Tabaré Vázquez has said that he will veto any bill seeking to make abortion more widely available. (*Reuters*, 6/11; *SPUC*, 6/12)

England: The British government's principal medical advisor wants the law to assume that people wish to donate their organs after death, and the British Medical Association agrees with him. Sir Liam Donaldson suggests that a shortage of organs proves the need for an opt-out system. The Patient Concern group said that organ donation was "a generous gift, not an obligation." (*BBC*, 7/17; *SPUC*, 7/18)

Switzerland: Dignitas, the Swiss assisted-suicide organization, has been ordered to move out of its housing block headquarters after residents launched a campaign. Tenants of the building said they regularly encountered propped up corpses in the lift and described the housing block as smelling of death. General secretary of Dignitas, Ludwig Minelli, said (through his lawyer) that he was "looking for new quarters" and would consider setting up in a caravan, giving Dignitas the freedom to move around. (*The Guardian*, 7/13; *SPUC*, 7/18)



South Korea: An unborn baby is not a human person until the mother goes into labor, South Korea's highest court has ruled. Fr. Lee Dong-ik, professor of medicine at the Catholic University of Korea, called it an "extremely shocking and deplorable verdict," adding that no other country "has such a definitive ruling that an unborn baby is not a human being." (*LifeSiteNews.com*, 7/13; *SPUC*, 7/20)

England: A British couple who were advised to abort their unborn child after doctors said he was severely disabled have had a baby who is not disabled. Heather O'Connor and Jamie Bramley were told by doctors at St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, that their baby had brain defects. Mr. Bramley said: "They said the scan was 99 percent reliable and recommended abortion. We were distraught. I asked for further investigations, but the doctor said he was rarely wrong." The couple decided to go ahead with the pregnancy after seeking a second opinion at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield, where a professor said that he believed the child's brain was normal. (*Manchester Evening News*, *SPUC*, 7/23)

India: The new Indian president has criticized the practice of sex-selective abortion which results in the killing of many unborn girls. Pratibha Patil, who was elected last week, emphasized, as she was being sworn in, that women's rights were important to her. She said: "We must banish malnutrition, social evils, infant mortality and female feticide." (*Irish Independent*, *SPUC*, 7/26)

South Africa: Nelson Mandela's recently formed group has been criticized for its anti-life bias. The Elders, which aims to be a group of international leaders offering advice and experience to the world, so far consists of Kofi Annan, Ela Bhatt, Gro Harlem Brundtland, Jimmy Carter, Graça Machel, Mary Robinson, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Muhammad Yunus, Li Zhaoxing, and Mandela. Jim Hughes, vice-president of International Right to Life, said: "I'm not particularly reassured by that group. Given that almost all of the members of the group are well-known, powerful figures in pro-abortion, pro-population control, pro-everything else circles, I can imagine what sort of 'wisdom' they plan on offering the world. Personally, I think the world would be a much better place without that sort of wisdom." (*LifeSiteNews.com*, 7/23; *SPUC*, 7/26)

Portugal: The first private abortion clinic has been opened in Portugal following the recent change in the law to allow social abortion up to 10 weeks' gestation. Many Portuguese doctors are refusing to perform abortions and several public hospitals have said they will not be able to offer abortion, despite the legal obligation to do so, because they lacked doctors willing to do them. (*Los Angeles Times*, *SPUC*, 7/31)

Youth Speak Up For Life!

Where are youth at when it comes to life issues? LFL chapters or federations in Illinois, Minnesota, and Missouri, have sponsored essay contests to help find out! Diane Albers, President of LFL of Missouri, says, "it is exciting to see what these [students] have to say with their entries and to see that their beliefs come straight from the Bible, expressed with a sincerity that is a pleasure to view." Here are selected quotes from several winning entries:

"In [Isaiah 44:24], God conveys the importance of every human being, even those yet unborn. Here the Lord of the Heavens, who laid out earth and sky, tells us that He has also formed each and every one of us, from the tiniest cell. All the beauty of creation is placed on the same level with the magnificence of the human embryo. This tiny life, set in motion by God's own hand, must be protected, just as every life must be." *Adam Booher, 12th Grade, Lutheran High School, Springfield, Illinois*

"God will help you. He is always with you! Suffering is not the end of the world. God allows suffering so we can learn from it. 'No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.' (Hebrews 12:11) Where can you turn for help? You can ask your pastor or a doctor for help. Also, there are a lot of answers on Christian web sites. But first of all, our problems would probably all be solved if we read and followed the Word of God . . . God has a plan for each one of us. Therefore, we should not abuse, but cherish what God has given to us . . . **LIFE!**" *D'Laney McPadden, 8th Grade, Zion Lutheran School, Mayer, Minnesota*

"Adoption is a wonderful option for women who may not be in the position to raise a child by themselves. Young, pregnant girls should know that adoption is a great choice because teenage girls cannot afford and are not ready to support a baby. Some families cannot have children. My aunt was not given the chance to have children, so she adopted two kids to raise as her own. I have no idea what my life would be like without my cousins. As Christians, we can also support pro-life efforts of organizations such as Lutherans For Life. Through voting, we can actively support politicians who are pro-life and work for the rights of unborn children. Another way to help is to pray for those who work to stop abortion. God has created all of us magnificently and has given each of us such a huge purpose to carry out here on earth. We should not take anything He has given us for granted, especially the greatest blessing of all:

LIFE!" Emily Clark, 8th Grade, St. John's Lutheran School, Norwood Young America, Minnesota

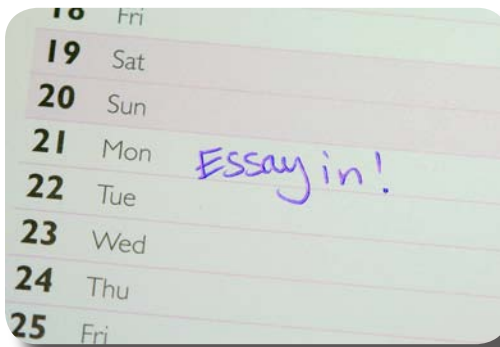
"My mom has Multiple Sclerosis. The doctors say that one day stem cell research might be able to cure her disease. She is very happy about this, but not if it concerns embryonic stem cells. She would rather take shots and have a baby be born and grow up to perform God's will than have that baby die to fight her disease. God has a plan for everyone, even the little unborn babies! '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) When scientists kill an unborn baby through stem cell research they are ruining God's plan for that baby!" *Brittany Erdman, 8th Grade, St. John's Lutheran School, Norwood Young America, Minnesota*

"Imagine you're getting ready to have an abortion. What are you thinking? Are you thinking 'no one will ever know,' or 'everything will be okay now'? You could also be thinking, 'why in the world am I doing this'? I am against abortion. Why

would you want to kill an innocent baby that had nothing to do with his or her conception? . . . One doctor I have read about has performed about 75,000 abortions. Many doctors say they are helping women. How would you be helping someone if you're killing a beautiful person that the mother and father created? . . . God says in Proverbs 6:16-19 that there are six things that He hates, seven that are

detestable to him. One of the things He hates is 'hands that shed innocent blood.' . . . There are always other options instead of abortion. You could put your baby up for adoption. Some people can't have children so they would be overjoyed to have yours." *Afton Wolter, 7th Grade, St. John's Lutheran School, Norwood Young America, Minnesota*

"Life is a special gift; a gift from God. From the time a mother is pregnant to the time a baby dies, he/she is a blessing to life. Unfortunately many people choose to ignore those facts and kill the innocent baby by the way of abortion, just because some hospitals and clinics say it's okay to use abortion. But despite their approval, God still says abortion is wrong. Isn't that reason enough? . . . From the very beginning God knows about His precious child: his/her name, address, future career, and date of death. That means two things: the forming baby is surely a human being, and that God sends His children down to Earth for a reason, not just for fun, but to spread His Word and do the good deeds He has in mind." *Eddie Godbold, 6th Grade, St. John Lutheran School, Ellisville, Missouri*



Adopted Sons and Daughters

by Linda D. Bartlett

It is simply too amazing to comprehend! You and I, in Christ, are sons and daughters of God! (Galatians 4:4-7) As His sons and daughters, the Spirit in us calls out, “Abba, Father!”

It’s true! **“I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty”** (2 Corinthians 6:18).

Does this truth change the way you see yourself? Does it change the way you live? It can—and should! Satan knows that if we believe we are sons and daughters of God, we will not let our heads be turned by the world. So, he is busy. He is very, very busy. Just as he tempted the first man and woman, so he tempts us today with his hissing question, “Did God really say . . . *I created you . . . My ways are not the ways of the world . . . There is hope in the midst of despair . . . My love covers all sins?*”

Sons and daughters of God can answer, “Yes!” even while the battle rages for our very souls between two fathers—the Father of Truth and the father of lies. Jesus, indeed, the very Word of God, describes Satan this way: **“He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him . . . he is a liar and the father of lies”** (John 8:44 NIV).

I must admit, I have been tempted by the father of lies. He knows my weaknesses. He presses on my soft spots. He tells me lies about my origin, gender, and freedom. He tries to turn my head so my behaviors are influenced by the world. But, because of what Jesus has done for me, I am an adopted daughter of God! And, as a daughter of God, I see the wisdom of the world as foolishness! (1 Corinthians 1:20; 3:19) The Spirit of God equips me to live counter-culture!

Titus 2 for Life, the mentoring model of LFL’s Word of Hope ministry, encourages sons and daughters of God to live counter-culture. Opportunities abound for Titus 2 for Life to encourage women to trust their identity as daughters of God who think, speak, dress, and live differently than the world. Because of Jesus Christ, wrong choices of the past are forgiven, failures are forgotten, and hope is new everyday!

Titus 2 for Life uses Law and Gospel to instruct, encourage, and share hope with men and women of all ages and spiritual maturity. It contrasts “trendy” ideas with the unchanging truth of God’s Word.

Titus 2 for Life offers six opportunities to encourage biblical womanhood:

- 1) One or two-day retreats for small groups;
- 2) Training for local Titus 2-style ministry;
- 3) The purity lifestyle show and educational fundraiser, *Dressing for Life*;
- 4) A 10-lesson Bible study: *Dressing for Life*;
- 5) A 12-lesson Bible study *Men, Women, and Relationships*; and,
- 6) The web site www.titus2-4life.org for daughters of God who want to make a difference in their world.

Biblical manhood is encouraged through *Men, Women, and Relationships* and a second, shorter study entitled *Called to Remember*.

So far, the purity lifestyle show, *Dressing for Life*, has reached approximately 2300 girls and women raising approximately \$20,000.00 for Word of Hope (the healing ministry of LFL; www.word-of-hope.org), local caring pregnancy centers, abstinence programs, and Titus 2 for Life. To date,

fifteen “teas” or day retreats, six overnight retreats, and seven training retreats have been hosted.

The father of lies was busy in Titus’ day. As a young pastor, Titus was in need of a model that would help his congregation stand against the pagan ideas embraced by

the culture. Saint Paul was inspired to offer Titus and his congregation the gender-specific model found in Titus 2:1-8.

We, too, live in a culture that embraces the immoral and ungodly ideas perpetuated by the father of lies. But the model given to us by our Father, the God of all Truth, helps us raise a generation of men and women who know how to live in a way that pleases God and even begins to transform the culture.

What is the promise? **“God’s saving kindness has appeared for the benefit of all people. It trains us to avoid ungodly lives filled with worldly desires so that we can live self-controlled, moral, and godly lives in this present world. At the same time, 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”** (Titus 2:11-14 *GOD’S WORD*).

To find out more about Titus 2 for Life go to the Titus 2 web site or contact Linda Bartlett at lindabartlett@mchsi.com. The *Dressing for Life* Bible study (Item DFL); *Men, Women, and Relationships* (Item 901BS); and *Called to Remember* (Items 302BS & 302BS(S)) are available from Lutherans For Life.





Opportunities

by Karen L. Frohwein
 Director of Development
 National Lutherans For Life

Don't we all love opportunities—a chance to take an action that will change a condition, forward a cause—perhaps even save a life? Opportunities sometimes present themselves quietly, sometimes clearly, sometimes hidden in what seems like a difficulty or challenge. Sometimes opportunities are boldly presented and sometimes they are not shared and the chance to act passes you by. Are you open to opportunities when they come your way?

By the end of this year, Lutherans For Life staff and volunteers will have exhibited at 13 conferences all over the country. Each conference is an opportunity to tell the story of LFL, to give out information, and help equip the church and its people to address these spiritual issues through God's Word. People often start conversations talking about the life issues as political issues and I love to help them understand that true change happens when we understand the value of human life through the lens of Scripture. These are pro-eternal-life opportunities to change hearts and minds!

We also have opportunities to listen and to see God's grace and mercy at work. At the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention, a post-abortive woman came to the table with a peaceful smile on her face. She told me she was so happy to be at the convention and to know that Christ had fully forgiven her sin. It's so important to realize that these women are in our midst. They are our sisters, our neighbors, our friends, even our pastor's wives. We are often given unexpected opportunities to witness to the sanctity of human life and the healing power of Christ's forgiveness.

Today, I want to present a specific opportunity to support something tangible—something you are holding in your hand right now—*LifeDate*, our quarterly journal. *LifeDate* is a free resource, mailed to over 28,000 individuals each quarter, as well as sent in bulk quantities to churches and schools. Four times a year, over 34,000 copies are printed and distributed. What an opportunity to educate and encourage so many people searching for answers to life issues they face in their daily lives.

LifeDate opens many opportunities to witness and educate. It's well respected in the pro-life community. It's widely

distributed and shared. It makes the connection between the life issues and God's Word in a way that is unique to LFL. It's free for the asking—and sent all over the world!

"Free for the asking" does not mean *LifeDate* is free. The summer issue of *LifeDate* carried a price tag of over \$21,000—about 60 cents a copy. That cost is covered by donations. Bulk subscribers pay the shipping costs for their orders, but there is no cost for the journal itself. Because charging a fee might keep *LifeDate* from reaching the hands of someone who needs it most, we believe it is important to continue to offer it as a free resource. What an opportunity God has given us to produce and share the messages in *LifeDate* with someone in need.

I believe it is a God-pleasing decision to continue to send *LifeDate* free. God gives us this opportunity to share the Gospel message of life and I want to share this opportunity with

you. **A subscription of \$2.40 a year is a pretty good deal for a publication like *LifeDate*.** Would you be willing to pay it? For some that would seem like an opportunity, to others a burden. If you see this as an opportunity to help share the Gospel message of life, would you consider using the envelope in the center of this issue to send a gift to cover one year's cost for your copy? **Would you consider covering the cost for your neighbor's issue? Your gift of \$2.50, \$5.00, \$25.00, or even \$50.00 will help keep *LifeDate* free for all who request it.**

God calls us to different opportunities according to His will. My prayer is that you are open to the opportunities, whatever they may be, given to you by our Heavenly Father and respond in thankfulness to Him for His gift of eternal life.

- 2007 Conferences/Conventions with an LFL Display**
- Lutheran Education Association
 - Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Conference on Mercy
 - Association of Free Lutheran Congregations
 - National Right to Life Convention
 - Church of the Lutheran Brethren
 - Lutheran Women's Missionary League
 - American Association of Lutheran Churches
 - Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
 - Higher Things National Youth Gathering
 - International Lutheran Laymen's League
 - National Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Youth Gathering
 - Orphan Grain Train
 - Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ



Lutherans For Life

Many of you have sent your annual membership gifts. While the annual campaign is winding down, you can still become a member of Lutherans For Life!

Membership gifts help support the daily needs of the national office and are also shared with our state federations and local chapters.

Last quarter, we sent over \$27,000 in remittances to states and chapters because of your membership gifts.

Thanks for accepting this opportunity to help others—For Life!

In the Hand of God

In the Hand of God was the theme at the 2007 national conference of Lutherans For Life in Omaha, Nebraska, July 6-8.

“I love the theme of our conference!” said President Diane Schroeder. “We are in God’s hands so we can be the hand of God for others . . . When we reach out with hands of compassion to the pregnant teen and her baby with love and support, we are the hands of God. When we teach our children to trust the Lord of life—even if they make bad decisions—we are the hands of God. When we care for rather than kill the elderly, ill, or handicapped, we are the hands of God. That’s what Lutherans For Life is all about. Helping Christians connect, through either our words or actions, biblical truth to life issues. When that happens, lives are changed.”

Dr. Wallace Schulz, executive editor of *Good News* magazine and former speaker on *The Lutheran Hour*, gave the Friday night keynote address on the theme *By God’s Gift of Faith We Believe . . . and We Speak for His Unborn*, based on 2 Corinthians 4:13. Dr. Schulz said abortion is not “something which God only occasionally thinks about. This is on the front burner . . . the scope is incredible.” [An estimated 48,000,000 unborn babies have been killed by abortion since 1973.] He

told the conference that in our culture “we can expect to be opposed,” but also prayed in closing, “Almighty and everlasting God, unleash upon this room as You did upon the disciples years ago . . . the power of Your word and spirit to shake up the Church! Give them the courage of Jeremiah and Ezekiel. Let them say ‘I’ve got to speak. I’ve got to speak for the unborn.’”

Saturday morning included plenary addresses from Dr. David Menton (Associate Professor Emeritus of Anatomy and Neurobiology at Washington University School of Medicine) on *Chance or Design?*; Rev. Dr. Dean O. Wenthe (President of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana) on *The Christology of Life (John 10:10b)* and *The Holy Spirit and Life (John 6:63a)*; and Buddy Davis (speaker, singer, and songwriter for Answers in Genesis) on *Dinosaurs: Separating Fact from Fiction*.

Workshops focused on *Biblical Manhood*; *Biblical Womanhood*; *Defending the Defenseless*; a biblically-minded process for finding a marriage partner for life; *Trinitarian*



Theology and End-of-Life Issues; The Untold Story of Abortion; and Implications of Evolutionism.

In the Sunday morning Bible study, Rev. Dr. James Lamb, LFL Executive Director, laid three foundation stones upon which the Christian stands when connecting God’s Word of Life with the life issues. “We are created by God’s hands, redeemed by His hands, and He calls us and holds us in His hands. This foundation does not shift or change. ‘It stands forever’ (1 Peter 1:24-25). This foundation gives value to human life because of what God has done. This foundation enables bold and joyful proclamation of the value of God’s gift of life in all circumstances.”

Dr. Lamb’s Sunday morning sermon theme was *God in Hand or in the Hand of God?* based on Job 12:4-10. “Carrying your god around in your hand might seem convenient. You could shape and form your god into whatever you wanted

him to be and have him say whatever you wanted to hear. But there is one problem with such a god in hand. They would have to be so very, very small. Such a god could never carry you in his hand. But there is a God who can! ‘In God’s hands is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind’ (Job 12:10). The God who created us in our mothers’ wombs with His hands, the God who redeemed us with His hands nailed to a cross, this God now holds us. Indeed, we are engraved in the palm of His hand.

This is our comfort and hope when facing difficult times. This is our power and strength as we share with others the value and dignity God’s hands give to all life.”

First time attendee, Mikal Wittler, 13, a member of Faith Lutheran Church, Lincoln, said “To tell you the truth, I didn’t know a lot about life issues before this conference, but I sure learned a lot there, and want to know more . . . It was a great experience for anyone who is a believer . . . They should try it to see what they can learn.”

(*Lutherans For Life*, 7/8; *LCMS Reporter online*, 7/17/07)



(l-r) Connie Davis, President, LFL of Michigan; Buddy Davis, Answers in Genesis; Diane Schroeder, President, National LFL; Dr. David Menton, Answers in Genesis at the 2007 LFL Conference

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Life Thoughts in the Church Year

Life Thoughts is designed to help pastors and congregations see the church year through the lens of the sanctity of human life. *Life Thoughts* are based on the appointed readings from *Lutheran Service Book* (using the English Standard Version).

October 7 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 22)

“Destruction and violence,” “strife and conflict,” “justice never prevails” (Habakkuk 1:1-4)—more than anything else in our modern world these words describe abortion. The violence and destruction of over 3,000 children every day is the ultimate in the perversion of justice. Why does God tolerate such wrong? God’s answer remains the same, “the righteous will live by his faith” (2:4). We trust in God’s victory in Christ as we boldly confront the evils of our time.

October 14 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 23)

Paul encourages Timothy, “Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 2:3). Sharing in the suffering of Christ sometimes comes when we share Christ and apply His Word of Life to spiritual issues that are also controversial. But faithfulness to the truth means to “endure everything for the sake of the elect” (2:10).

October 21 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 24)

Jesus says we are “always to pray and not lose heart” like the widow in His parable who kept seeking justice from the judge (Luke 18:1-8). Thirty-four years of abortion on demand seems like a lot of injustice to us. But we should never stop praying that God would embolden the voice of His people and bring an end to all that assaults life and the Author of life.

October 28 – Reformation Sunday (Observed)

A quote from Luther on abortion, “For those who have no regard for pregnant women and who do not spare the tender fruit are murderers and infanticides.” (*What Luther Says: An Anthology*, compiled by Ewald M. Plass [St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1959], Vol. 2, NO. 2826, p.905.) Notice how his focus is not upon the pregnant woman but upon those who have no regard for such women and their fears and needs.

November 4 – All Saints Day (Observed)

We all need to be reminded of the purity God gives us through the blood of Christ (1 John 3:3 and Revelation 7:14). We are all saints! We can look forward to eternity when God will “wipe away every tear” from our eyes (Revelation 7:17). Post-abortive women and men can feel the least “saintly” of anyone. What great hope it gives them when this message of purity is applied to them.

November 11 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 27)

Moses expressed his inadequacy, “Who am I?” (Exodus 3:11). God expresses His adequacy, “I AM” (3:14). Trusting in the all-sufficiency of God, who has revealed Himself in the suffering of Jesus, enables us to deal with the sufferings of this life.

November 18 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 28)

Jesus speaks of the end times and says, “You will be hated by all for my name’s sake” (Luke 21:17). It is perhaps worth pondering whether the efforts by many Christian churches to please everyone and offend no one will make Jesus’ prophecy impossible to fulfill.

November 25 – Last Sunday of the Church Year (Proper 29)

Have we lost the distinction between “one who serves God and one who does not serve him”? (Malachi 3:18) The moral climate of our time calls for courageous Christian influence through the proclamation and living of the Gospel.

December 2 – 1st Sunday in Advent

Paul gives a “wake up” call in Romans 13:8-14. Preparations for celebrating Jesus’ first coming remind us that He will come again. Paul calls us to “cast off the works of darkness” and “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” (13:12, 14). This preparation for Jesus’ second coming is a fitting formula for hope and strength as we deal with the struggles of life.

December 9 – 2nd Sunday in Advent

The “size” of our sin does not keep us from God’s forgiveness. People undoubtedly confessed some “big” sins as they were baptized by John (Matthew 3:1-12). Self-reliance, like that of the Pharisees, is what keeps us from receiving God’s grace in Christ. Humbly recalling our baptism and the cleansing we received there gives the assurance of God’s forgiveness.

December 16 – 3rd Sunday in Advent

As we await Christmas and as we look forward to Christ’s coming again, we do not do so free of the suffering and problems of life. “Be patient” James tells us (James 5:7). He holds out as examples the prophets who patiently spoke in the name of the Lord never seeing the fulfillment of what they spoke, and Job who persevered in the face of great suffering (5:10-11). The source of our patience? “The Lord is compassionate and merciful” (5:11b).

December 23 – 4th Sunday in Advent

Assured by the angel, Joseph faithfully assumes his responsibility in an “unplanned” pregnancy (Matthew 1:18-25). Assured by God’s promises that find their “yes” in Joseph and Mary’s child, modern-day fathers in similar situations can faithfully assume their responsibilities to do what is God-pleasing.

December 30 – 1st Sunday after Christmas

Herod’s slaughter of the Bethlehem babies certainly gives opportunity to address our modern-day slaughter through abortion (Matthew 2:13-18). It also gives opportunity to address the modern day “Rachels.” For example, those mothers who have aborted and are in desperate need of hope and comfort. The Child who escaped Herod’s wrath that night is the only source of comfort they need.



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In the Hand of God

“In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.”

Job 12:10 *ESV*

Watch for 2008 Life Sunday materials in the winter edition of *LifeDate*!