

# LifeDate



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

Fall 2005

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

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Finding a Family ...



...for a Child

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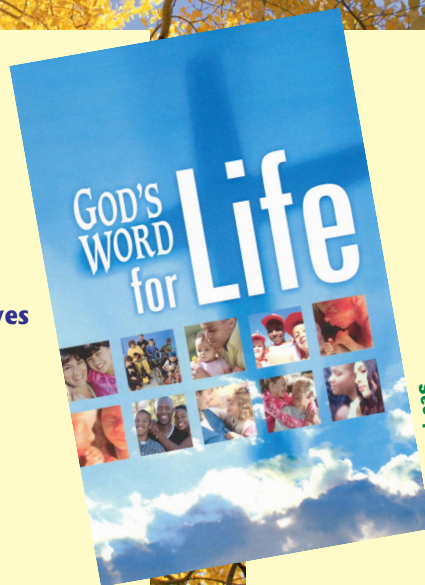
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## Poetic Biology and Stem Cells

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

The Bible is not a biology book. The Bible was written to make us **“wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus”** (2 Timothy 3:15). That does not mean, however, that the Holy Spirit is clueless when it comes to biology. Psalm 139 gives us some poetic biology that is fundamental in determining where we stand as Christians when it comes to the use of embryonic stem cells.

Reading the poetry of Psalm 139 can be a little frightening because you quickly realize God knows all about you! He knows where you are, what you’re doing, what you’re thinking, and what you’re going to say before you say it (v.1-4)! You also realize that there is no place you can go to escape this all-knowing God (v.7).

But God is not watching you as some “Big Brother in the sky” but as your Creator. God knows you because He made you. **“For You created my inmost being”** (v.13). Here David uses very intimate language. “Created my inmost being” is a Hebrew idiom that could be translated, “You made my kidneys”! The kidneys were the last organs removed in the sacrificial process. They denote the very depth of who you are—your “inmost being.” Clearly, God was intimately involved in making you who you are from the beginning.

Next David uses delicate language. **“You knit me together in my mother’s womb”** (v.13). “Knit” means to “cover” or “fence in.” There is a progression. God created you, your very essence (your inmost being), and then wove or knitted a covering for “you”—your body. This also seems to confirm the biological process for procreation that God established. You were uniquely “you” at the moment of your conception. Your genetic make up, your “inmost being” was there. Cell division begins and your “covering”—your body—develops.

When stem cells are taken from human embryos, this poetic biology comes to an untimely stop. To put it less poetically, when stem cells are taken from a human embryo, a human being, a little girl or a little boy, dies. This is fundamental biology and yet it must be denied by those favoring embryonic stem cell research.

It is denied in the “size” argument. “The embryo destroyed for its stem cells is smaller than the period at the

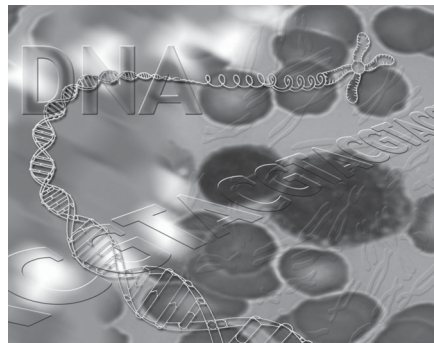
end of this sentence.” Oh how I tire of this ill-used phrase. Every human being, including anyone writing that phrase, was once that small. Regardless of size, it is *someone* not *something* that is destroyed when stem cells are taken.

The humanity of the embryo is denied in the “therapeutic” argument. “Embryonic stem cells hold the potential to cure devastating diseases.” This is a true statement although there have been no cures to date and none really expected for a decade at least. But even if a cure were found tomorrow, killing human beings to cure human beings is not a moral option.

The humanity of the embryo is denied in the “good as dead” argument. This is the argument that even some who claim to be “pro-life” have used. “These embryos in fertility clinics are going to die anyway. Why not use them to preserve life in others?” But we don’t talk about harvesting body parts from inmates on death row or little girls and boys with terminal cancer in order to preserve life in others.

Christians, beware of being led astray by such rhetoric. We are better served and serve better when we are tuned to the poetry of God.

**“For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother’s womb”**  
(Psalm 139:13).



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## “Well, at least I wasn’t adopted.”

by Diane E. Schroeder  
President, National Lutherans For Life

*This column is dedicated to the birthparents of my children and all the millions more who sacrificed to give life and love to their children through adoption.*

“Well at least I’m not adopted.” The hurtful words spoken by a fourth grade classmate of my oldest son, Michael, rang in my ears. Mrs. Perez, the teacher, had apologized for the behavior of her class, but didn’t know how to correct the situation and the negative perception of adoption. So the next day I outfitted Mrs. Perez with books for kids that talk about why birth parents place their children for adoption. By the end of the class, kids were saying to Mike, “How wonderful it is that you are adopted.” A little education can go a long way.

How typical of our culture. The “me” generation with magazines such as *Self* cannot understand why a woman would think of her child first. You see, that’s what birth parents do. Recognizing that they cannot care properly for their child, they love their children so much that they make a plan to place their baby with a loving adoptive family who can provide for their baby’s needs. It’s not an easy task being a birthparent—denying your own needs for the sake of another.

You see, God chose to bless my husband and me with parenthood through adoption. I could not be happier with God’s plan. Adoption has been the biggest single influence on my life. It pushed me to pro-life involvement with Lutherans For Life. It taught me a great deal about emotional pain and trusting in God’s providence and provision. Raising adoptive kids also taught me a great deal about the uniqueness of every individual and the purpose that God has for each and every person that He creates. I have the most respect for the birth parents of my four children. They chose the hard route. They could have terminated their pregnancies and denied the world the wonderful gifts of their children. Behind the statistic of 46 million children lost through abortion are kids like mine.

Michael (23) with his quick wit and winsome personality; Liz (21) with her unique abilities and artistic talents (ask me about the time she made a skirt out of her laundry bag); Paul

(20) my sensitive Korean male who is always thinking of others—whose high school driving record drove his father crazy; or Rebekah (15) my beautiful Korean daughter with a heart of gold.

All of my children were created by God for His unique purposes. God doesn’t make any mistakes. All people, no matter of their conception circumstances, handicaps, economic situation, etc., are unique individuals created by God with distinct purposes for their lives. I’m very grateful that the birth parents of my children were visionaries that could see past the difficult circumstances of their pregnancies to the fine young men and women their children have become.

Of course, of all of them are abortion survivors and strongly pro-life. To them, abortion is not an intellectual discussion, it is a visceral attack on their humanity. The following excerpt is from a letter received by the student paper at Illinois Wesleyan in response to a discussion on abortion.



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

*. . . As an abortion survivor myself (as the child, not the mother), I would like to address a few things here. When I was three weeks old, I was adopted by a very loving family of which I am still a part. I do not know much about my birth mother. She was college aged, 20 or 21, and she chose to give me up to a family that she knew could care for me and love me the way she wished to.*

*Far be it for any person, man or woman, to tell me that I did not have a RIGHT to live. I love my life, I love my family, and how dare anyone propose that I should not be here because it would have been easier for my birth mother to have me torn apart by a “doctor” and put in a jar. . . .*

*I am not advocating any hate or intolerance toward people that have had an abortion, only healing. Terminating a pregnancy is indeed a very traumatic experience. What I am advocating is that those who are pro-choice consider the effects of abortion and what alternatives lay before anyone that faces such a decision. I do not believe that any person has a right to decide who should be allowed to live or die.*

*Please try to think of the countless babies that have not been allowed a chance at life, and ask yourselves if that is really very sensitive or tolerant.*

Liz Schroeder, Class of 2006

Comments from Liz’s adoptive mom: YOU GO GIRL! Your birth mom would be proud!

## Adoption: Finding a Family for a Child

by Wanda L. Pritzel, LISW,  
Director of Operations, Lutheran Family Service of Iowa

Adoption. We think of it immediately when we hear of friends or family members who are experiencing infertility. What a wonderful solution! Yes, but it is so much more.

Adoption is not just about finding a child for a family who can't have a child. Consider it the other way around: *adoption is about finding a family for a child who doesn't have a family.*

Hundreds of thousands of children are waiting to be adopted. Consider the opportunity that exists for us to loudly proclaim our belief in the value of life by joining these children to permanent, loving families through adoption!

No matter what the age—from a 14-year-old girl in an east coast foster home, to a 5-year-old boy in a Russian orphanage, to a newborn baby in a Midwest hospital, to a frozen embryo in a cryogenic lab on the west coast—these lives are precious. God's design is for children to be raised in families where they will be loved, nurtured, and protected. Open your heart and mind for the few minutes it will take you to read this article, and consider these many opportunities to make a life-long and eternal difference in the life of one child through adoption.



### Adopting an Older Child

Today in the United States, over 500,000 children are in foster care, and over 125,000 of these children are waiting for adoptive families. More than half are eight years old or older, and some have special emotional needs. Some are part of a sibling group who need to stay together. Most are children who have lived the early part of their childhood in chaotic and difficult situations. These children are legally free to be adopted, having had their legal ties to their birth families terminated. The only reason they are still in foster care is that no family has come forward to adopt them. Each of these children has their own unique story to tell, but they all have one thing in common: a desire to be part of a permanent family. Adults with previous parenting experience are often well suited to adopt an older child, with the special needs they might bring. Maturity, patience, understanding, a sense of humor, and perspective are personal qualities of adopting

parents who are successful in parenting older children. Does this describe you or anyone you know? If so, consider finding out about the possibility of adopting an older child who is waiting for a family through your local adoption agency or your state's department of child and family service. Some states have programs similar to Iowa's *KidSake Waiting Child* program, where a photo listing and written description of waiting children is available to review ([www.iakids.org](http://www.iakids.org)).

### Adopting Internationally

Thousands of children, from infants to teens, who live each day in orphanages in countries including Bulgaria, Russia, Poland, China, Vietnam, and the Philippines, are also waiting for permanent families. In many of these orphanages, the physical needs of the children for nutritious food and a safe environment, not to mention the critical needs of spiritual and emotional nurturing, are going unmet. Bringing one of

these waiting children to a permanent place in your family would change that child's life, and yours, forever. International adoption is increasing in popularity, with over 25,000 children adopted by U.S. families each year. Each country has its own unique requirements, and it is important that you work with a licensed international child placing agency. Several years ago, the Lutheran human care organizations throughout the United States joined together to increase their efforts to place children from international orphanages, by forming the Lutheran Adoption Network (LAN).

Through this network, families from any state with a participating Lutheran agency can adopt a child from one of 14 countries. Explore what LAN has to offer by visiting their website at [www.lanadopt.org](http://www.lanadopt.org). While you are there, be sure to read the incredible story of Inga, a beautiful little girl who made her way from an orphanage in Siberia to her new family in Connecticut.

### Adopting an Infant

Although infant adoptions in the United States are not as numerous as they were in previous generations, there are still many young men and women who chose life for their unplanned child, and who are looking for the right family to adopt the child they love but cannot raise. Through agencies or through private arrangements, approximately 30,000 infants are adopted each year in the United States. The bond and life-long relationship built between a child's birth and adopting family through semi-open or open adoption can be a powerful example of love in action. Many resources exist for families interested in infant domestic adoption, through

the internet and through books written to help prospective adopting families learn how to get started. The publisher of Adoptive Families magazine produces a comprehensive “how to” guide each year ([www.adoptivefamilies.com](http://www.adoptivefamilies.com)).

### **Adopting an Embryo**

The most recent opportunity to provide homes for children through adoption is the possibility of adopting a child as a frozen embryo. These children, now existing in the earliest stages of their development and suspended in a frozen waiting place, also need families to raise, love, and nurture them! As in infant adoption, the genetic parents (who have more embryos than they need produced through their own fertility treatment) have the opportunity to select which family will raise their genetic child through adoption. After the selection, the frozen embryo is sent to the adopting couple’s fertility clinic where the embryo is implanted into the adopting mother’s uterus, to continue through gestation, and eventually to birth. One agency in the United States, Nightlight Christian Adoption Agency of California, is currently placing children through the frozen embryo adoption program they call “Snowflake Adoptions” ([www.nightlight.org](http://www.nightlight.org)). This program received national attention when it was introduced by President Bush at a May 24, 2005 press conference on stem cell research. In affirming the value of every human life, President Bush noted that there is no such thing as a “spare embryo.” To put a face to these embryos, twenty-one of the children adopted through the Snowflake program were introduced at the press conference. It is estimated that over 400,000 frozen embryos exist in the United States today, with less than 100 adoptions completed. As public awareness of the potential for adoption instead of destruction of these embryos grows, a greater number of these adoptions may result.

### **Adoption Resources**

A concern some families have about adopting is the prohibitive nature of the cost involved. It can be expensive, but with a little creativity, it is certainly possible! The adoption of older children currently waiting in U.S. foster homes is not cost-prohibitive, and in fact may be accompanied by supporting financial resources from the state agency holding custody of the child. Infant adoption costs may range from several thousand to over \$20,000, depending on the area of the country in which you live and adopt. International adoption can be the most expensive, with costs (including travel to your child’s country, and support for your child’s originating orphanage) ranging from \$15,000 to over \$25,000. Although very new, the cost for frozen embryo adoption is less than infant and international adoption.

The good news is that there are resources that can help offset all of these costs! A Federal Tax Credit of up to \$10,390

exists for families who adopt, as long as their income is less than \$150,000 per year. This is a direct tax credit, not a deduction from your income, and is applied against the taxes you owe, dollar for dollar. See IRS publication 968 for details about this adoption tax credit ([www.irs.gov/publications/p968](http://www.irs.gov/publications/p968)). Also, many employers offer benefits designed to offset the costs of adoption for their employees.

### **What Can We Do?**

We express our belief that there is no such thing as an “unwanted child.” Instead, we believe that all children conceived are gifts from God, and deserve a chance in life. A young mother faced with an unplanned pregnancy chooses life instead of abortion. We celebrate that decision. Now what? Is our job done? Is our witness complete?

The decision to give life was made by the birth parents of over 125,000 children in the U.S. and hundreds of thousands of children in foreign orphanages today. These children now have life, but have no family—no one to support and guide them through this life. You are invited and encouraged to prayerfully consider these possibilities:

1. Consider adopting a child yourself. Explore the resources, and see what doors God might open for you.
2. Share this article with a family you know who might consider adopting a child. Remember, this does not have to be a couple who is experiencing infertility. Perhaps a couple who already has parenting experience and can provide a nurturing, stable home for just one more. If you are a pastor, share this article with several families in your congregation who you believe might be open to considering adoption.
3. Help a family who wants to adopt a child fund their adoption expenses. If you don’t know of anyone personally, ask your pastor if he knows of anyone who is considering adopting but is unsure because of the cost. You might also contact an adoption agency with an offer to help a family with adoption expenses.
4. Sponsor a child in an orphanage through a reputable agency. The agency links on Lutheran Adoption Network’s website will take you to several of these.
5. Organize financial support within your congregation or organization for a foreign orphanage. Again, one of the Lutheran agencies in Lutheran Adoption Network could help you get connected to an orphanage.
6. Pray for the children who, as you read this, are waiting for families.

# Nazi Parallels in America Today

By Ed Szeto, Director of Outreach, Lutherans For Life

*“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”* George Santayana, philosopher and poet.

Much has been made in the pro-life community comparing legalized abortion-on-demand in the United States to the Holocaust in Nazi Germany. Some leaders in the Jewish community bristle at this comparison and say that we should not minimize what happened in Nazi Germany to the Jewish people by using this comparison.

I agree with them.

I am currently reading *The Nazi Doctors* by Robert Jay Lifton.<sup>1</sup> I began reading this book because I was attracted by the sub-title of the book: “Medical Killing and the Psychology of Genocide.” I wanted to learn more about how, in the United States today, a profession dedicated to helping people and saving lives can blatantly take human life in abortion, physician-assisted suicide, euthanasia, and embryonic stem cell research.

Dr. Lifton, a Jew, interviewed twenty-nine Nazi medical professionals (28 were doctors), twelve Nazi non-medical professionals (e.g. lawyers, economists, teachers), and eighty survivors of the Auschwitz concentration camp who had worked in the medical blocks (over half being doctors) for this book.

The following paragraph struck me as soon as I read it:

“The Nazis based their justification for direct medical killing on the simple concept of ‘life unworthy of life’ (*lebensunwertes Leben*). While the Nazis did not originate this concept, they carried it to its ultimate biological, racial, and ‘therapeutic’ extreme.”<sup>2</sup>

In his introduction to the book, Dr. Lifton explains a little about the attitude of the Nazi doctors. He states that the whole program of the doctors was “a vision of absolute control over the evolutionary process, over the biological human future.”<sup>3</sup> Dr. Lifton continues by writing:

“Making widespread use of the Darwinian term ‘selection,’ the Nazis sought to take over the functions of nature (natural selection) and God (the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away) in orchestrating their own ‘selections,’ their own version of human evolution.”<sup>4</sup>

In 1920 Alfred Hoche, professor of psychiatry at the University of Freiburg, co-authored a paper entitled “The Permission to Destroy Life Unworthy of Life.” This paper is said to reflect “the general German mood following the First World War.”<sup>5</sup> Dr. Lifton summarizes the section written by Hoche as follows:

“Hoche, in his section, insisted that such a policy of killing was compassionate and consistent with medical ethics; he pointed to situations in which doctors were obliged to destroy life (such as killing a live baby at the moment of birth, or interrupting a pregnancy to save the mother). He went on to invoke a concept of ‘mental death’ in various forms of psychiatric disturbance, brain damage, and retardation. He characterized these people as ‘human ballast’ . . . and ‘empty shells of human being’—terms that were to reverberate in Nazi Germany. Putting such people to death, Hoche wrote, ‘is not to be equated with other types of killing . . . but [is] an allowable, useful act.’”<sup>6</sup>

Dr. Lifton lists “five identifiable steps by which the Nazis carried out the principle of ‘life unworthy of life.’”<sup>7</sup> His five steps are listed on the next page along with the parallel situation in the United States.

Clearly, comparing abortion-on-demand in the United States to the Holocaust in Nazi Germany is not right. The Holocaust was the final step in a plan created by a society where they thought there were lives not worthy of life. In American society today, where some are claiming there are certain lives not worthy of life, abortion-on-demand is just one step toward the final step.

Did the amniocentesis test show that the child may have Down syndrome? Abort him! Does the embryo contain the genetic sequence for cystic fibrosis? Destroy her! Want to heal a spinal cord injury? Destroy the embryo for his stem cells! Don’t want to care for a person with a disability? Starve her to death! Want a “perfect” baby with no diseases? Alter his genetic makeup!

The Good News is that all human life is worthy of life. This is not because of what we look like, what we can do, or what we may do in the future. All human life is worthy of life because of what God has done with His creative hands. He created, He creates, and He will create all human life (Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 139:13-16). All human life is worthy of life because of what God has done with His redemptive hands. He redeemed the whole world through His atoning sacrifice on the cross (John 3:16; John 10:10).

Because of what God has done, what He continues to do today, and what He promises to do in the future, we can say that all human life is worthy of life. No matter what age,

what stage of development, what condition that life may be in, ALL human life is precious in God's eyes. And we, as His children, need to protect ALL human life.

The devaluing of human life that took Nazi Germany approximately 15 years to attain is now slowly taking place in the United States of America. The time has come for God's children to boldly proclaim His Word and to stand for life.

**(Footnotes)**

- <sup>1</sup> Lifton, R. J. *The Nazi Doctors – Medical Killing and the Psychology of Genocide*; © 2000, Basic Books, New York, New York; p. 7.
- <sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, p. 21.
- <sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p. 17.
- <sup>4</sup> *Ibid*.
- <sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, p. 47.
- <sup>6</sup> *Ibid*.
- <sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, p. 21.
- <sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, p. 25.
- <sup>9</sup> Quinn, P. "Race Cleansing in America" *American Heritage* (February/March 2003), pp. 34-43.
- <sup>10</sup> *The American Heritage Dictionary, Third Edition*; 1994; New York City, New York: Dell Publishing.
- <sup>11</sup> "Lessons from before Roe: Will Past be Prologue?" *The Guttmacher Report on Public Policy*; The Alan Guttmacher Institute, March 2003.
- <sup>12</sup> Kalb, C. "Brave New Babies" *Newsweek*; January 26, 2004.
- <sup>13</sup> <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/kevkorian/hronology.html>
- <sup>14</sup> "Seventh Annual Report on Oregon's Death with Dignity Act" Oregon Department of Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Epidemiology; March 10, 2005.
- <sup>15</sup> "Gene Defects Emerge in All Animal Clones" *Sunday Times of London*; April 28, 2002.

<b>Dr. Lifton's "Five Identifiable Steps"</b>	<b>Parallel in the United States of America</b>
Step 1. Coercive sterilization: Those who were to be sterilized included patients suffering from: mental deficiency, schizophrenia, manic depressive insanity, epilepsy, Huntington's chorea, hereditary blindness, hereditary deafness, grave bodily malformation, and hereditary alcoholism.	<p>Early to mid-1900s: forced sterilization was legal in sixteen states. Private individuals and prominent foundations supported the creation of the Eugenics Record Office to promote eugenics in American society.<sup>9</sup></p> <p>Eugenics is "the study of hereditary improvements of the human race by controlled selective breeding."<sup>10</sup></p>
Step 2. Killing of "impaired children" in hospitals	<p>1973-present: nation-wide legalization of abortion-on-demand for any reason (17 states had legalized abortion for various reasons and at various stages of pregnancy prior to 1973<sup>11</sup> ).</p> <p>The use of the amniocentesis test to determine if a child in the womb may have a disability, then offering abortion as an alternative to continuing the pregnancy.</p> <p>The use of preimplantation genetic diagnosis during in vitro fertilization and destroying the embryos that contain a genetic sequence predisposing the child to having a disease (e.g. cystic fibrosis) later in life.<sup>12</sup></p>
Step 3. Killing of "impaired" adults	<p>1990-1998: Jack Kervorkian assists over 100 people to kill themselves.<sup>13</sup></p> <p>1998: Oregon institutes legalized physician-assisted suicide legislation. From 1998 to 2004, 208 persons with terminal illnesses have killed themselves. Eighty-seven percent cited the fear of losing autonomy as one of their concerns.<sup>14</sup></p> <p>2005: The death of Terry Schiavo in Florida is brought about through dehydration and starvation by discontinuing the administration of nutritional substances.</p>
Step 4. Killing of "impaired" inmates of concentration and extermination camps	<p>2004: New Jersey becomes the first state to legalize (and fund) human cloning experiments. The only reason for having these human cloned embryos is to terminate them in embryonic stem cell research experiments.</p> <p>Experience has shown that cloned animals are "impaired" and it is believed that cloned human beings would be just as impaired:</p> <p>"A review of all the world's cloned animals suggests that every one of them is genetically and physically defective. Ian Wilmut [lead scientist on the Dolly cloned sheep project] said, 'There is abundant evidence that cloning can and does go wrong and no justification for believing that this will not happen with humans.'"<sup>15</sup></p>
Step 5. Mass killings	Still to come in the United States?

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## Rape and Adoption

by Grace Kern,  
Director of Word of Hope, 888-217-8679

How often have you heard people say abortion is wrong but it should be O.K. in the case of rape or incest? Should abortion be legal for cases of rape?

Unfortunately, many pro-lifers have accepted the argument that it would be just too traumatic for these women to carry a baby conceived in this way. They miss the point that taking the life of this baby is also a very traumatic event with long-term negative consequences.

Typically, the debate begins with the assumption that the woman who is pregnant from a sexual assault would prefer an abortion so she would be able to recover from the assault that much sooner than if she carried the baby to term.

However, that is certainly not the choice most rape victims make. In the only major study of pregnant rape victims ever done, Dr. Sandra Mahkorn found that 75 to 85 percent chose against abortion. For these women who decide for life, their biggest decision is whether to keep the baby or give it up for adoption.

There is no question that rape is an unspeakable evil and that rape victims suffer with anger, guilt, and fear. However, when a rape occurs, the damage has been done. Compounding one act of brutality with a second will not reduce the effect of the first. Abortion will not take away the rape of a woman, it only punishes the unborn child for a rapist's crime. As many of our callers have stated, "after my abortion I felt I could not live with myself. I felt raped twice, once by the rapist, and again by the abortionist. Not a day goes by that I don't think about my baby. Why didn't anyone tell me about adoption?"

At **Word of Hope** most of our calls are from post-abortive women or from sexual assault victims. We also hear from parents trying to understand how to help their daughter after a rape. Many parents feel helpless, and just don't know what to do. We try to work with the entire family as the assault devastates everyone—parents and siblings. Each one is affected differently, and it can cause long-lasting emotional and spiritual problems. Without proper counsel most feel angry, scared, and victimized. Many will desperately struggle with relationships and will have difficulty trusting people. When rape victims and their families come for help they are looking for a safe and caring environment—a place where the Lord can grant them peace and understanding.

One such girl came to **Word of Hope** and asked us to share her story:

I was only sixteen. I thought I would be safe going to his house . . . He told me his parents would be there . . . I trusted him . . . I never thought he would force himself on me..

When the doctor told me I was five months pregnant from the rape, I felt like my life had ended. I was so ashamed I couldn't tell anyone—not even my parents. I kept thinking it would go away. I was scared people would ask me who the father was . . . How can I tell them I was raped? Who would believe me? It was so painful. I cried and hid in my room for months . . . It was like my life was ruined. I felt so afraid.

When I finally told my parents my dad wanted to do something to the boy, and my mom cried. After a few days my parents realized we were all going to need help. That is when my father called **Word of Hope** and spoke with Grace Kern. She gave us an appointment to see her right away . . . She helped me, my parents, and two younger sisters. She saw me every week during my pregnancy. I didn't think I could make it but Grace was there whenever I needed to cry or ask why. She prayed with me and reassured me that God had not abandoned me.

I had never wanted an abortion but yet I knew I was not ready to be a mother . . . Because of my faith I always knew abortion wasn't right, but why were my friends telling me this was the one exception that people always talked about? I'll never forget telling my best friend and her telling me I should have an abortion. I had so many mixed feelings. Grace helped me explore single parenting and adoption. I realized there was nothing wrong with feeling I couldn't handle a baby at sixteen. After I made the decision to place my baby for adoption, my family and I together picked a wonderful Christian couple. I wanted my baby to have two loving parents. I didn't want him to know I had conceived him from rape. Sure it was hard but I know I made the right decision.

For me, placing my baby for adoption was one of the toughest decisions I ever made. It was also one of the best. The family I placed my baby with sends me pictures of him once a month.

I keep my little boy's picture with me all the time and when I look at his smiling little face I look to the Lord and thank Him for allowing me to give him life.

Thank you so much for your help, Grace.

Love you. Melinda

**"Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another"** (Ephesians 4:31-32).



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# Atrophy of Compassion

*Father Frank Pavone, Director of Priests for Life, was with Terri Schiavo—and her brother, Bobby, and sister, Suzzane—in her dying moments. He posted these comments following the release of Terri's autopsy results in June:*

The autopsy of Terri Schiavo has been released to the public, bringing attention once again to this sad and tragic case, and reigniting so many of the debates surrounding her life and death. Does the autopsy shed any light on this tragedy? Does it change anything?

The autopsy, of course, is a medical document about Terri's physical condition. It is filled with complicated medical terms and statistics. In and of itself, it tells us simply the details found upon examining Terri's body. An autopsy is not a crystal ball either into the past or the future. Nor is it a moral evaluation of the worth of a human life.

The big temptation is to stretch the autopsy beyond its purposes, and somehow get it to do more than it can do. Some, indeed, wonder whether this autopsy was, from the beginning, a political tool worked out by the euthanasia advocates to advance their agenda regarding Terri. Whether or not that is the case, the autopsy will certainly be used by such advocates to further dehumanize Terri and rob her of her claim to care and protection.

But let's presume that those who conducted this exam did so objectively and honestly. What, then, do we learn?

For one thing, the autopsy shows that all the media reports that so confidently asserted that Terri collapsed because of "an eating disorder" or "a heart attack" should not have been so confident. In short, the autopsy does not provide a basis for those claims, and leaves the cause of her initial collapse in 1990 a mystery.

Was Michael Schiavo at all responsible for her collapse? The autopsy does not answer that question. Perhaps Michael should.

What the exam does tell us, however, is that Terri died from dehydration. Of course, we knew that already. She wasn't given any water the last two weeks of her life, and we know why. Michael, and those acting in concert with him, insisted on that and got the courts to enforce their wishes. We don't know if Michael was responsible for Terri's injury, but we do know he was responsible for her death.

The autopsy goes on to say that Terri's brain was "profoundly atrophied," and only half the normal size. Fine. If that's what the experts tell us, there is no problem believing them. But what does that mean, that she was only half human, only half a person, or that she had only half the rights that the rest of us have? That is the conclusion that we must never

accept. That is a conclusion that does not come from an autopsy, but from a callous disregard for human life.

Terri did not die from atrophy of the brain. She died from an atrophy of compassion. Too many people, starting with Michael, were unwilling to accept the fact that profoundly injured people require profound compassion and care. Even if this autopsy report showed that Terri was ten times more damaged than she was, our moral obligation to respect and protect her life would not change at all. We don't have to pass a test to qualify for our human rights. An autopsy is a measure of physical damage, not of human rights.

The autopsy says Terri was blind. That is not the morally relevant point. The point is that we are blind . . . Blind all too often to the fact that even the disabled and the severely injured have the same dignity and worth as the rest of us, and show forth the image and glory of God, even in their brokenness.

The autopsy says that Terri was beyond repair or rehabilitation. But that does not mean we are supposed to throw her away, like we throw away a car that is beyond repair. Again, there is no problem accepting this medical conclusion. But morally speaking, our compassion is not beyond repair. We can build a society that respects and protects all our brothers and sisters, recognizing that their value does not come from how well they function, perform, or produce.

I will never forget my hours with Terri, both before and after her feeding tube was removed.

She responded to me, and she responded to others who visited her. She laughed, she tried to speak, she returned her parents' kisses, she followed us with her eyes, she closed her eyes when I prayed with her and opened them when we were finished. Medical examiners can offer their conclusions because of what they saw, but none of that changes what we saw. But both we and the medical examiners were looking in from the outside. Any honest medical expert will admit that there is so much about the human brain we still don't know. What Terri experienced on the inside is a mystery that only she and God know.

The challenge at this moment is simply this: Whatever she experienced, to whatever extent she was damaged, and even if she were totally unresponsive, Terri was one of us. She was our sister, she was a child of God, she was fully in possession of her human rights, and nothing can ever justify what was done to her.

Terri Schiavo was murdered, because she was deprived of food and water. We've done the examination on her body. Maybe it's time for an examination of our souls.

**Note:** End-of-Life resources from Lutherans For Life can be found on page 10.



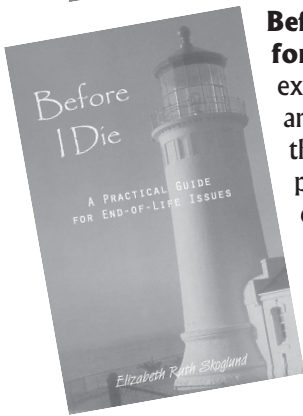
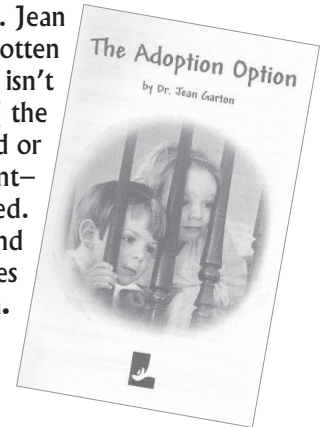
Terri Schiavo (1963-2005)

# For Life Resources from Lutherans For Life!



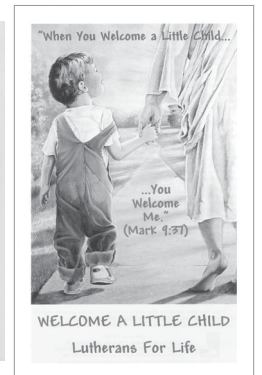
**The Basics on Advance Directives: Thy Will Be Done** – Is it proper for a Christian to have a Living Will? This booklet has basic information about Living Wills and other advance directives that will help a Christian answer that question. By Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb. **Full color!** Item 807B. **\$0.25 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.**

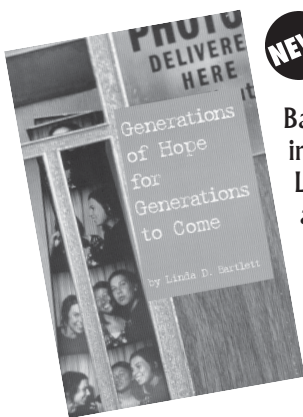


**Before I Die - A Practical Guide for End-of-Life Issues** – This excellent booklet, by noted author and licensed marriage and family therapist Elizabeth Skoglund, shares principles for the Christian at life’s end along with words of encouragement. Linda Bartlett says this booklet is “for individuals and families who seek to do God’s will when faced with difficult decisions of life and death.” Item 809B. **\$2.00 ea.**

**The Servanthood of Adoption** – A look at adoption in the light of Biblical servanthood. By Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb. Item 501T. **\$0.25 ea.**

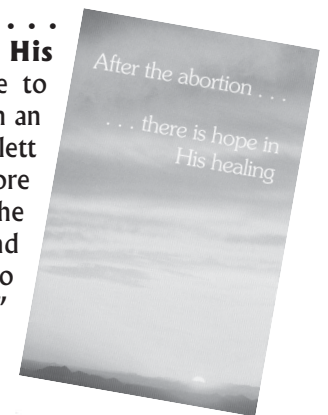


**Welcome a Little Child** – This bulletin insert encourages adoption as a choice both mother and child can live with. Item 500BI. **\$0.07 ea.**



**NEW!** **Generations of Hope for Generations to Come** is a personal challenge from Linda Bartlett to all Lutherans who believe in Jesus Christ, the Living Word. Linda has committed most of her adult life to pro-life ministry based on the Word of God. An older generation has always been called to pass on the truth of God’s power and great deeds—and to mentor the younger generation. This challenge comes at a time

**NEW!** **After the abortion . . . there is hope in His healing** offers hope to those who are struggling with an abortion decision. Linda Bartlett says “God . . . wants to restore you to Himself . . . through the power of Christ’s death and resurrection, you are set free to rejoice in the newness of life!” Item 405B. **\$1.00 ea.**



when the Church is desperately needed to speak and act the Biblical message of life—by using Law and Gospel. God’s Word provides all that every generation needs! It is Linda’s prayer that this booklet be a useful tool for you as you reach out across the generations to inspire and encourage. Item 906B. **\$2.00 ea.**



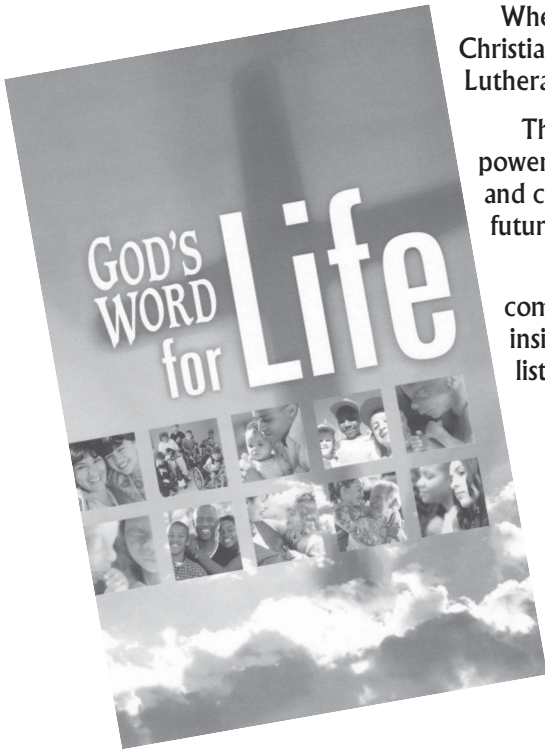
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LFL Executive Director Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb is both the general editor and a commentary contributor to this project. Dr. Lamb also solicited other exegetical insights and commentary on the many *For-Life* Scripture passages. The outstanding list of contributors includes:

Rev. Dr. Alvin Schmidt	<i>The Importance of Christian Influence</i>
Rev. Tom Aadland	<i>Pro-life Preaching</i>
Linda Luecke	<i>CPC Supplement</i>
Rev. Dr. James Lamb	<i>Introduction, Trinitarian Value of Life, Gospel Motivation</i>
Rev. Dr. Robert Weise	<i>Biotechnology and Infertility</i>
Dr. Jean Garton	<i>Rape/Incest</i>
Grace Kern	<i>Post-Abortion, Forgotten Fathers</i>
Linda Bartlett	<i>Male and Female Relationships, For Life Generations, and Purity</i>
Prof. James Westendorf	<i>When Life Begins</i>
Rev. Dr. Richard Eyer	<i>Theology of the Cross, God in Control, and Purpose for Life</i>
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GOD'S WORD for Life is being developed by Lutherans For Life in cooperation with God's Word to the Nations ([www.godsword.org](http://www.godsword.org)), a mission society headquartered in Orange Park, Florida, using the GOD'S WORD translation. Tell others about GOD'S WORD for Life!

Photocopy this page and send it to your family, friends, current and former pastors—anyone who you believe would be interested! You can also e-mail them this link:

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

**An update on production:** Due to unforeseen production problems outside the control of Lutherans For Life it is not expected that GOD'S WORD for Life will be available for shipment until the end of 2005 (not the late spring/early summer date previously listed in *LifeDate* and the *2005-2007 Life Resource Catalog*). We regret the delay.

However, we are getting closer to production! The layout design has been done and approved and the commentaries have been edited, proofed, and sent to the publisher for typesetting. After typesetting, some additional editing may be necessary due to space considerations. As we get closer to production, details will be posted at [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org) and in the winter 2005 edition of *LifeDate*.

## CMA Doctors Lament Senator Frist's Decision

The 17,000 member Christian Medical Association, headquartered in Tennessee, laments Senator Bill Frist's (R-Tenn.) decision to pursue legislation and policies that would allow further destruction of human embryos in research to extract their stem cells.

"We deeply regret Sen. Frist's endorsement of an embryonic stem cell research policy that would turn living human beings into commodities for exploitation," said CMA Executive Director David Stevens, M.D.

"We have appreciated the senator's thoughtful and principled stances on life issues in the past and are extremely disappointed to see what we consider a crucial moral lapse on this critical issue.

"As physicians, we understand the pressure to seek treatments from all possible sources, but we must remain committed to insuring that life-honoring ethics guide our decisions. Treating living human embryos as mere fodder for experimentation crosses a vital ethical line and contravenes the sanctity of human life."

"The ends never justifies the means. Seeking cures for patients is an admirable goal, but it must never be done at the expense of other human lives."

"We continue to respect Dr. Frist as a colleague and friend, but we must condemn any policy that devalues the sanctity of human life." (CMDA, 7/29/05)



## Biotech's Siren Song

by Charles Colson

In June, "advocates of embryonic stem cell research" from "academia, politics, health care, and medicine" met in Houston. Not to share the results of their research, but to plot strategy, specifically, how to beat the political opposition and "get the research money flowing."

As has been the case since the start of this debate, the preferred tactic is to promise the public the moon. Paul Mandabach, who helped convince California voters to spend billions on state funded stem cell research, summed it up: "As the realities of these cures become clear, the morality arguments will be lessened."

Set aside the inconvenient fact that the "cures" Mandabach mentions don't exist and aren't likely to anytime

soon. If they did exist, should it make a moral difference? For many people, especially Americans, the answer is "yes." Of course, many of us, consciously or not, subscribe to a philosophy known as "utilitarianism" that judges actions by their usefulness.

What is usually meant by "usefulness" is the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people. For the utilitarian mindset, Mandabach's argument is a slam dunk: the possibility of cures and therapies that may benefit millions of people over against a group of cells whose humanity, from their point of view, is in dispute. Throw in pictures of diabetic children and a celebrity suffering with a debilitating disease, and the calculus becomes irresistible.

And even if the humanity of the embryo was not in doubt, that would not make a difference. The most famous ethicist in the country, Peter Singer of Princeton, is a utilitarian. His utilitarian logic justifies, among other things, infanticide and euthanasia as ways of promoting happiness.

While Mandabach and others would probably dispute and resent any connection to Singer's views, their protestations would ring hollow. If the idea is to weigh "cures" over against "morality," why stop at embryonic stem cell research? If the potential benefits justify cloning embryos to harvest their stem cells, why not implant these embryos and "harvest" full-grown body parts?

That's what happens in the acclaimed new novel *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro. In a world where one scientific breakthrough followed another, he writes, "there wasn't time to take stock [and] ask the sensible questions." All people could see were the "new possibilities" laid before them. And

once the organs from clones appeared, they "preferred to believe these organs came from nowhere."

Nothing in the argument made by the people who gathered in Houston can prevent Ishiguro's science fiction dystopia from becoming moral and social fact.

Utilitarianism can't keep us from descending into useful barbarism because it rejects all absolutes except the maximizing of happiness. And because it rejects first principles like the sanctity of life, it can't draw bright moral lines. It's an eraser, not a pencil.

Fortunately, we still have time to ask those "sensible questions," but not for long. The promises being made in Houston are tailor-made for Americans who love the "new" and view promised cures as their birthright. If Christians aren't ready to take on the worldview that underlies them, then something besides "morality arguments" will be lessened: It will be our own sense of the dignity and sanctity of life.

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# Adult Stem Cells vs. Embryonic Stem Cells . . .

Check the score: Diseases and conditions treated with adult stem cells - 65; with embryonic stem cells - 0



## Adult Stem Cells

### CANCERS:

1. Brain Cancer
2. Retinoblastoma
3. Ovarian Cancer
4. Skin Cancer: Merkel Cell Carcinoma
5. Testicular Cancer
6. Tumors (abdominal organs) Lymphoma
7. Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
8. Hodgkin's Lymphoma
9. Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
10. Acute Myelogenous Leukemia
11. Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia
12. Juvenile Myelomonocytic Leukemia
13. Cancer of the lymph nodes: Angioimmunoblastic Lymphadenopathy
14. Multiple Myeloma
15. Myelodysplasia
16. Breast Cancer
17. Neuroblastoma
18. Renal Cell Carcinoma
19. Various Solid Tumors
20. Soft Tissue Sarcoma
21. Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia
22. Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis
23. POEMS Syndrome

### AUTO-IMMUNE DISEASES

24. Multiple Sclerosis
25. Crohn's Disease
26. Scleromyxedema
27. Scleroderma
28. Rheumatoid Arthritis
29. Juvenile Arthritis
30. Systemic Lupus
31. Polychondritis
32. Sjogren's Syndrome
33. Behcet's Disease
34. Myasthenia
35. Autoimmune Cytopenia
36. Systemic Vasculitis
37. Alopecia universalis

### CARDIOVASCULAR

38. Heart damage

### OCULAR

39. Corneal regeneration

### IMMUNODEFICIENCIES

40. X-linked hyperimmunoglobulinem-M Syndrome
41. Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Syndrome
42. X-linked Lymphoproliferative Syndrome

### NEURAL DEGENERATIVE DISEASES/INJURIES

43. Parkinson's Disease
44. Spinal cord injury
45. Stroke damage

### ANEMIAS/BLOOD CONDITIONS

46. Sickle Cell Anemia
47. Sideroblastic Anemia
48. Aplastic Anemia
49. Aegakaryocytic Thrombocytopenia
50. Chronic Epstein-Barr Infection
51. Fanconi's Anemia
52. Diamond Blackfan Anemia
53. Thalassemia Major
54. Red Cell Aplasia
55. Primary Amyloidosis

### WOUNDS/INJURIES

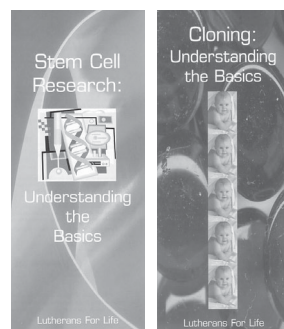
56. Limb gangrene
57. Surface wound healing
58. Jawbone replacement
59. Skull bone repair

### OTHER METABOLIC DISORDERS

60. Osteogenesis Imperfecta
61. Sandhoff Disease
62. Hurler's Syndrome
63. Krabbe Leukodystrophy
64. Osteopetrosis
65. Cerebral X-linked Adrenoleukodystrophy

For references see:

[www.stemcellresearch.org/facts/asc-refs.pdf](http://www.stemcellresearch.org/facts/asc-refs.pdf)



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## Embryonic Stem Cells

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

The total number of abortions in the U.S. from 1973-2004 is estimated at 44,613,300.\*

There were over 3,542 abortions per day in 2001-2002, 148 per hour, one every 24 seconds.

(\*Alan Guttmacher Institute)

**China** – Amnesty International has drawn attention to the human rights violations being carried out against women in China in the name of the one-child policy. Atrocities include forced abortions and sterilizations, the imprisonment and torture of a campaigner against forced abortion, and sex-selective abortion of girls. A spokeswoman for Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) commented: “Abortion is an invasive, violent act that exploits women and ends innocent lives. International agencies that promote coercive population control should have their funding stopped immediately.” (*The Guardian*, SPUC, 5/25)

**England** – The United Kingdom’s Family Planning Association has released a new sex guide for underage teenagers which includes details on how to perform different sexual acts and answers questions such as “how can I be good at sex?” It also contains information on how to obtain abortifacient birth control without parental knowledge. Norman Wells of Family and Youth Concern stated: “Rather than persisting with the same old, tired, fatalistic approach that has failed so dismally, we need to start treating young people with more respect and give them a positive and much more radical message.” (*CWN*ews, 6/13; SPUC, 6/14)

**India** – A 10-year study by India’s Christian Medical Association has warned that unborn baby girls continue to be aborted at a high rate, causing a serious gender imbalance across the country. The study found that the number of girls born in Delhi hospitals was just 542 per 1000 boys if the parents’ first child was a girl and just 219 girls for every 1000 boys if the parents already had two girls. Joe Varghese of the Christian Medical Association warned that the mass killing of unborn baby girls would be “disastrous for the sex composition of society.” (*Reuters*, SPUC, 8/4)

**England** – SPUC is warning that government policies on teenage pregnancy and sexual health are leading to increases in the abortion rate, following the release of statistics for abortions in England & Wales in 2004. Anthony Ozimic, SPUC political secretary, commented: “There were 185,400 abortions in England & Wales in 2004, a rise of 3,800 from 2003. This figure represents an appalling increase in unborn lives destroyed, and women hurt by abortion, and an obstinate refusal by the government to admit the effects of its policies. The figures represent a sharp rise in abortions before the 10<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy, particularly in chemical abortions using RU-486. Politicians and commentators must recognize that the government’s approach of promoting early abortion is increasing the overall number of abortions.” The highest

abortion rate last year was in the 18-19 and 20-24 age groups. Among under 18s, the abortion rate has dropped slightly. One percent of abortions were carried out because there was a risk that the child would be born handicapped. (*Department of Health Abortion Statistics*, SPUC, 7/27)

**Czech Republic** – The Czech Republic’s statistical office has released a report indicating that the country’s abortion rate has fallen to the lowest level ever documented—even less than in 1958, when the practice was first legalized under Soviet communism. The 27,574 abortions committed in the Czech Republic last year represent the lowest number for any former Soviet block country. In the early 1990s, as many as one in three unborn children were killed through abortion. The abortion rate peaked in 1988 at 113,730. In addition, most abortions in the early 1990s were carried out on women who had already had two children—approximately 40 percent of mothers. Now only 10 percent of mothers with children opt to end the life of a younger sibling. The Czech Republic has a population of 10.2 million. Although the 2004 abortion rate is a decline from previous years, 22 percent of all pregnancies there still end through abortion. (*LifeSiteNews.com*, 7/29)



**Russia** – An on-going collapse of the Russian population has been one major effect of abortion which was strongly condemned Friday by an archpriest of the Russian Orthodox Church. An end to abortion would see an end to the unnecessary deaths of from four to six million Russian children each year, said Archpriest Dimitry Smirnov, Zhizn (Life) confessor, as reported by UPI. Smirnov criticized the over-emphasis placed on the pursuit of careers and creature comforts as modern ills standing in the way of true happiness. “People do not realize that splendid education, success in their career, or money cannot be a substitute for family,” he said. The Zhizn organization, headquartered at Annunciation Church in Moscow, promotes life in Russia through education about abortion and contraception. (*LifeSiteNews.com*, 5/26/05)

**Japan** – Japan’s birthrate continues to fall, with a record low of 1.28 in 2004—making it the lowest recorded number of births in a year since records began there in 1899. The country’s population will begin its decline next year, dropping from its current 128 million to 126 million by 2015, and to 101 million by 2050, bringing with it catastrophic effects. Most fear the economic repercussions. “Our pension system is already being tested to its limits. And with fewer young people in society, the question is: How are we going to sustain the elderly and the nation’s future? We don’t have a clear answer yet,” said deputy director of Japan’s Education Ministry, Kota Murase. (*LifeSiteNews.com*, 5/26/05)

# A Lesson for Life Taught by Joan Engel

by Linda D. Bartlett

*Joan Engel, former member of the Lutherans For Life Board of Directors died on July 1 from complications during surgery to put in a stent to repair an aneurysm. Former LFL President, Linda Bartlett, shares the following thoughts about her close friend—a woman who became like a second mother to her.*

“The Word of God is all there is,” Joan Engel never tired of saying. “The Word of God alive is Jesus Christ.”

This is all Joanie would want any of us to remember about her. “I gotta tell you,” she would say, “There is nothing else.”

This is the truth that carried Joanie over the hills and through the valleys of her life on this earth. It is the truth that carried her on her journey to her heavenly home where, today, she lives triumphant in the presence of her Heavenly Father.

People across the country, if asked, could relate endless stories about Joanie and the way she made a difference in their individual lives. Those with whom she served in LFL of Michigan or on the National Board of LFL could share countless examples of her servant-style ministry. Her family could describe her love and wisdom. As for myself, well, on the day God called her home, I filled twelve pages of my journal with thoughts about Joanie.

But, Joanie would want us to remember only one thing: “The Word of God is all there is.”

In the midst of LFL board meetings, when important decisions needed to be made, it was Joanie who would help us focus by asking, “What does God’s Word tell us?”

In any discussion, when ideas of the world might threaten to hold us captive, it was Joanie who would begin by saying, “I gotta tell you . . . the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any two-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

You see, Joanie would want us to remember only one thing: “The Word of God is all there is.”

Once, when Joanie was walking through a deep valley in her life, she asked me to write out the words of Lamentations 3:21-23 (KJV) so that she could focus on God’s Word for life. “This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.”



**Joan Engel (November 26, 1930 – July 1, 2005) with her grandson Benjamin Engel.**

Joanie wanted to remind herself: “The Word of God is all there is.”

Spiritual maturity came early to Joanie. I believe the Holy Spirit opened her heart and mind to the Words of the Lord and she hungered for them. She learned to trust her Lord and Savior as she traveled over the hills and into the valleys of her life. There are many ways to respond to the circumstances of life in a sinful world, but Joanie chose to respond by holding on to the Sword of Truth—the Word of God—with both hands. That’s because she knew she was engaged in a daily battle for her soul and the souls of those around her. In the battle, Joanie would say, “the Word of God is all we need.”

One of Joanie’s favorite Christian authors was Oswald Chambers. Some time ago, while reading this author’s book entitled *My Utmost for His Highest*, my husband, Paul, called my attention to Chambers’ commentary on Philippians 2:17. Saint Paul was inspired to write to the Christians at Philippi,

“But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.” (NIV) I believe the commentary offered by Oswald Chambers is the same commentary Joan Engel would offer to me, to you, and to all who labor in the pro-life church of Jesus Christ:

“Are you willing to sacrifice yourself for the work of another believer—to pour out your life sacrificially for the ministry and faith of others? Or do you say, ‘I am not willing to be poured out right now, and I don’t want God to tell me how to serve Him. I want to choose the place of my own sacrifice. And I want to have certain people

watching me saying, ‘Well done.’”

“It is one thing to follow God’s way of service if you are regarded as a hero, but quite another thing if the road marked out for you by God requires becoming a ‘doormat’ under other people’s feet. God’s purpose may be to teach you to say, ‘I know how to be abased . . .’ (Philippians 4:12). Are you ready to be sacrificed like that? Are you ready to be less than a mere drop in the bucket—to be so totally insignificant that no one remembers you even if they think of those you served? Are you willing to give and be poured out until you are used up and exhausted—not seeking to be ministered to, but to minister?” (*My Utmost for His Highest*)

Joan Engel was willing—to be insignificant, to give, and to minister to the needs of others. And, as she was being poured out, she reminded us all: “The Word of God—Jesus Christ!—is all there is. There is nothing else.”

## LFL's Web Servant, Bob Ley (1960-2005)

The Lord has seen fit to call home another faithful LFL'er. Bob Ley died July 20 at his home in Indianapolis, Indiana. Bob had heart valve surgery and had just come home from the hospital. Bob was active on the Indiana LFL board of directors and was responsible for starting national LFL's website and maintaining it for several years. Eventually the national office took over maintaining the website but the staff and board of directors were always grateful for the many, many hours Bob put in getting the site going in those early years. He would refer to himself as "LFL's web SERVANT" never as "web master." Bob was known for his dedicated service to his Lord, church, and LFL. Those of you who knew him will remember his sharp wit and sense of humor.

## Lutherans For Life . . . on the road!

Lutherans For Life was on the road this summer, sharing the For Life message across the United States. Here are the conferences and conventions LFL staff has been to so far:

**Lutheran Education Association**, Indianapolis, Indiana; **Church of the**

**Lutheran Brethren of America**, Mount Bethel, Pennsylvania; **Association of Free Lutheran Congregations**, Valley City, North Dakota; **Lutheran Women's Missionary League**, Tampa, Florida; **American Association of Lutheran Churches**, St. Paul, Minnesota; **National Right to Life Convention**, Minneapolis, Minnesota; **Higher Things National Lutheran Youth Conference**, St. Louis, Missouri; and **International Lutheran Laymen's League**, Topeka, Kansas. Still to come: **Orphan Grain Train International Convention**, Norfolk, Nebraska; **Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ**, Altoona, Iowa; and **Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA**, Pikeville, Tennessee.



A youth group from Batavia, Wisconsin visits the LFL display at the Higher Things Youth Conference.

In Life,  
In Death,

Abide  
With  
Me

Twenty-Third  
National

LFL Conference

*November 11-13, 2005*

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*Students: Funds are available to help you attend the conference! Call or check the LFL website to find out more!*



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

**Ben Adams** by Doug & Lynette Auch, Diane Chadwick, Dorothy Edler, Elmer & Jane Eggers, Rev. & Mrs. Marvin Flanscha, Barbara Hilleman, LFL National Office Staff Members, John & Helen Maddick, Daryl & Kate Moore, Larry & Lynne Pfantz, David & Judy Saeger; **Gerry Barnard's mom** by Edith Armbrrecht; **Riley Beeck** by St. John Lutheran Church, Charter Oak, IA; **Sarah Ann Blomenberg** by John & Susan Ann Blomenberg; **Christopher Bohl** by Ralph, Ruth, & Jon Wehmeyer; **Sonia Joy Dickerson** by Elmer & Joy Bartel; **Bernice J. Dittmar** by Paul H. Dittmar; **Jerry Draheim** by Rev. Dr. Elmer & Norma Hohle; **Don Droegemueller** by Roger & Carolyn Kahler; **Laird Ehler** by Joy Siekert; **Joan Engel** by Paul & Linda Bartlett, Rev. & Mrs. Marvin Flanscha, Jeanne & Jay Mackay, Margaret Mesmer, LFL of Michigan, Rodney & Dawn Rathmann, Clarence & Arlene Zimmer; **Gordon Fairbert** by Ed & Esther Oehme; **Mike Fitzsimmons** by Jim & RoxAnne Lamb; **Lydia Frenz** by Rev. & Mrs. Walter G. Johnson; **Loren A. Heuer** by Ron & Carol Jochimsen, Alice E. Tepe; **Lorraine Heuton** by Pearl Kurth; **George Hollenback** by Dale Sattgast; **Sampson James** by Wayne & Diana Westphal; **Louise Jepsen** by Kenneth & Frances Beer; **Selma Junker** by Glennise & Michael Wendorf; **Mary Kaczmark** by Stevie Herndon; **Alma Krueger** by Rev. Bruce & Deb Lakamp; **Elda Krug** by Raymond & Lorma Zinnel; **Bob Ley** by Paul & Linda Bartlett; **Jean Lueders** by Hugo & Muriel Armbrrecht, Bonnie & Al Karsjen; **Tess Mickels** by Rosalie Larson; **Verena Moll** by family & friends, John & Sara Kamrath, W.C. & Norma Spann, Dana & Bill Walsh; **Mary Parker** by Stevie Herndon; **Jackie Pester** by St. John Lutheran Church, Charter Oak, IA; **Marcella Riese** by Bonnie & Al Karsjen; **Marvin** (Kay's dad) by Doug & Lynette Auch; **Carl J. Schumacher** by Mrs. Carl J. Schumacher, Jason Killham, Lee & Carolyn Fittje, Valerie J. Schardt, Michael & Kristin Koch, Larry & Len Mulligan, Lowene Rosendahl; **Elsie Severson** by John & Caroline Boll; **Steve Smetzer** by Oliver & Carol Milton; **Don Stahlhut** by Rev. & Mrs. Don Meyer; **Dr. Carl & Helen Swanson** by Dee Polson; **Margret Thomas** by Rev Lawrence & Mabel Schmidt; **Reva Waddingham** by Leta Davis; **Malinda Werner** by Dr. & Mrs. Dan Karmazin; **Rev. Vic Winkelman** by Mr. & Mrs. James Queen; **Irmgard Zagel** by Rev. & Mrs. Bruce Lakamp; **Andre Zdrasil** by Ron & Carol Jochimsen.

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

**Allan & Linda Armbrrecht** (25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary) by St. John Ladies Aid, State Center, IA; **Edith Armbrrecht** by Ruth Olson; **Hugo & Muriel Armbrrecht** (60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary); **Ruth Balvanz** by Marvin & Marilyn Barz; **Paul & Linda Bartlett** by Stan & Sandy Johnson; **Children & Spouses (Ruth & Dave Olson, Ted & Deanna Armbrrecht, Andy & Donna Armbrrecht, Rhoda & Tim Davis, Mark Armbrrecht)** by Edith Armbrrecht; **Martha & Julius Gilge** by Bernice & Conrad Roder; **Joan Grotelueschen** by Major & Mrs. Mark Grotelueschen; **Karl & Phyl Kostbahn** by Don & Norma Troester; **Shirley Oelke** by Judith Smith; **Our Mothers** by Nolan & Lou Ann Barth; **Our Mothers** by Randy & Karen Frohwein; **Mrs. Frances Rehrs** by Welma Klute; **Mrs. Alene Reich** by Rev. Herbert & Jeanette Kluck; **Mary & Conrad Roder** by Bernice & Conrad Roder; **Dean & Lavonne Toelle** by Kathleen Rosin.



**Lutherans For Life Leadership/Speaker Training Seminar**

**The benefits for you:** This one-day seminar is designed to help you prepare for something that most people don't like to do: speak in public. The seminar will help you learn about the basics of Lutherans For Life; the Mission, Message, and Manner of LFL; and the basics of preparing speeches and presentations. Whether you are preparing to speak to a small group or a large audience, this seminar is for you!

**Who should attend?** Those interested in learning how to speak for Lutherans For Life on life issues in their congregations, communities, and schools.

**Course materials:** Each participant will receive a manual with session notes, copies of all session presentations, and scripted, ready-to-use presentations on CD. (Transparencies also available.)

October 1 • Portage, Wisconsin

**For more info including a seminar agenda and registration forms go to:**

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

**Register Today!**



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

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## Gospel Giving

by Karen Frohwein  
Director of Development, Lutherans For Life

Just as God has a lot to say about life, God also has a lot to say about giving. As LFL's Director of Development, God's Word guides my work as I approach the subject of asking for gifts, just as God's Word should guide the giver's response. There is definitely a law and gospel approach to be considered. In the Old Testament, gifts were given in order to fulfill the law. Today, many people continue to give out of obligation and many fund-raisers will also impress upon donors the obligation of giving. But, as Christians, we live in grace and our asking and giving should reflect that! When you receive an appeal from Lutherans For Life, do you see the gospel reflected in the message? That is certainly our intent. Of course, we want you to prayerfully consider giving a gift to LFL, but regardless of your response, we hope the Holy Spirit leads you to receive God's message of life through the message in each appeal letter—that's *gospel* asking.

The apostle Paul had a lot to say about giving. **“Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”** (2 Corinthians 9:6-7 NIV). God loves a cheerful giver! Are you giving reluctantly or under compulsion? Or are you a *gospel* giver? Do you give because of what you have already been given? Do you believe in God's abundance and give as an act of worship and an opportunity to see God's grace in action? Paul continues **“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work”** (v.8). When you give to Lutherans For Life, you are showing your confidence in God's promise of grace and abundance. In all things at all times, God is providing for you and for Lutherans For Life so that we can spread His message of grace to others by witnessing to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God.

God no longer requires us to ask for or give gifts under compulsion—that's *law* giving! What the law required has been given at the cross in the blood of Christ. Lutherans For Life does depend on your gifts—and the need is great as we continue to reach out to people who want to know about life issues and what the Creator has to say about them. Individual

gifts, annual and sponsor memberships, planned and estate gifts, grants, and other sources of funding all contribute to meeting a budget that grows each year. It's a daunting task to think about meeting this need. But, it's a *gospel* task! God has given us what we need and He will continue to do so. We can approach asking and giving with confidence in God's abundance and with thanksgiving for the greatest gift of all—the gift of new life through the death and resurrection of Christ.

## Help Others, Yourself, & LFL

Go to [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org) and click "Support LFL!"

**Give Online!** – You can join LFL or give extra contributions online through the secure *Click and Pledge™* server.



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**LFL Endowment Fund** – The fund receives gifts and bequests and uses the interest accrued from them for the mission and ministry of LFL. You can make a difference!

**Have you drafted a Will or Living Trust?** – LFL can provide free, no-obligation information on how you can accomplish your personal and family goals through trusts, annuities, and other plans.

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**Our Mission . . .** 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 745 Life Ministry Coordinators in the United States.

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

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

## Life Thoughts in the Church Year

(based on the appointed readings from *Lutheran Worship*)

### October 2 – 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Our “citizenship is in heaven” (Philippians 3:20). We live in the Kingdom of God under the gracious rule of Jesus. We also live in this fallen world. As we do, however, we produce fruit in keeping with our heavenly citizenship (Matthew 21:43). Part of that fruit is to influence the fallen world in which we live so that others may come to know the grace of God in Christ.

### October 9 – 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

The joy Paul expresses in Philippians 4:4-13 is not joy because of good circumstances. It is joy in spite of bad circumstances. It is the joy of “being content in any and every situation” (4:12). It is the joy of trusting in Christ and His strength (4:13). It is the joy of knowing there are no circumstances in which God is not at work.

### October 16 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 22:21 contains the well-known words of Jesus, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.” Social Security reform, health care, taxes—such things belong to “Caesar.” But life belongs to God. Life is the gift of His creating hands. Life is redeemed by His outstretched hands. The Church is to be involved in the issues of life because they are issues of God.

### October 23 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

In the negative it is, “Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor’s life” (Leviticus 19:16b). In the positive it is, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (19:18b). Where there is life, there is our neighbor. The embryo in the Petri dish, the child in the womb, the child with a disability, grandma in the nursing home, the brain-damaged woman in hospice care—when we love them, we are doing the second greatest thing a human being can do (Matthew 22:37-39).

### October 30 – Reformation Sunday

Martin Luther restored to the Church the true understanding of the “new covenant” (Jeremiah 31:31) which God established in Jesus. The essence of this covenant is that there is no sin big enough to separate us from the love of God in Christ (Romans 8:35). Those who have had an abortion or committed other sins against the gift of life, especially need to hear the clear Good News of this new covenant, “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more” (Jeremiah 31:34b).

### November 6 – Third-Last Sunday of the Church Year

Paul is thankful to God that the Thessalonians received his word as the true Word of God that is now at work in them (1 Thessalonians 2:13). This is a good reminder that God works through His Word in the hearts of His people. He alone can change the hearts that will ultimately bring change to our world as we await His coming again.

### November 13 – Second-Last Sunday of the Church Year

In the midst of all the promises of cures from those favoring embryonic stem cell research, it is important to remember that a

little boy or girl is killed when embryonic stem cells are removed. Jesus gives us opportunity to include these little ones as among the “least of these” He speaks of in today’s Gospel (Matthew 25:40).

### November 20 – Last Sunday of the Church Year

“In keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness” (2 Peter 3:13). We know where we are going! This gives us hope for the here and now. We do not have to listen to the “scoffers” (3:3) and purveyors of death. We know that the Lord of Life has been victorious. We live in that victory as we look forward to the newness it promises.

### November 27 – First Sunday in Advent

Our value does not come from our hands. The very best deeds of even the most capable among us are “filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6). Our value, and the value of every human life, comes from God’s hands. “Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand” (64:8). The hand of the potter who made us stretched out on a cross to redeem us. We look forward to celebrating His birth and the value He gives to all life.

### December 4 – Second Sunday in Advent

Repentance is a proper Advent attitude as we prepare for the coming of Jesus. As you reflect upon the sins confessed to John at the river Jordan (Mark 1:1-8) and upon those needed to be confessed by God’s people today, you may want to include the sin of silence when it comes to defending God’s gift of life. Pray for a renewal in the joy of life and new life through the Christ Child.

### December 11 – Third Sunday in Advent

It is hard to read Isaiah 61:1-3 without thinking of those who have committed sins against life. So many are truly “brokenhearted” and feel “captive” to their sin. What good news Jesus brings for the “poor” such as these—“Gladness instead of mourning,” and “a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.”

### December 18 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

Jesus’ earthly life began nine months before He was born (Luke 1:26-38). He was fully human and fully divine from the moment of conception. This attests to our humanness and our need for a Savior from the moment of conception for that is when our life began. What an opportunity to celebrate the sacredness of all life beginning at the beginning!

### December 25 – The Nativity of our Lord (Christmas Day)

The humility of our God becoming a baby and lying in a manger exalts the value of every human life. As you celebrate God’s greatest gift, celebrate the dignity this gift gives to all humanity. His birth gives us reason to rejoice in every birth.

# LifeDate

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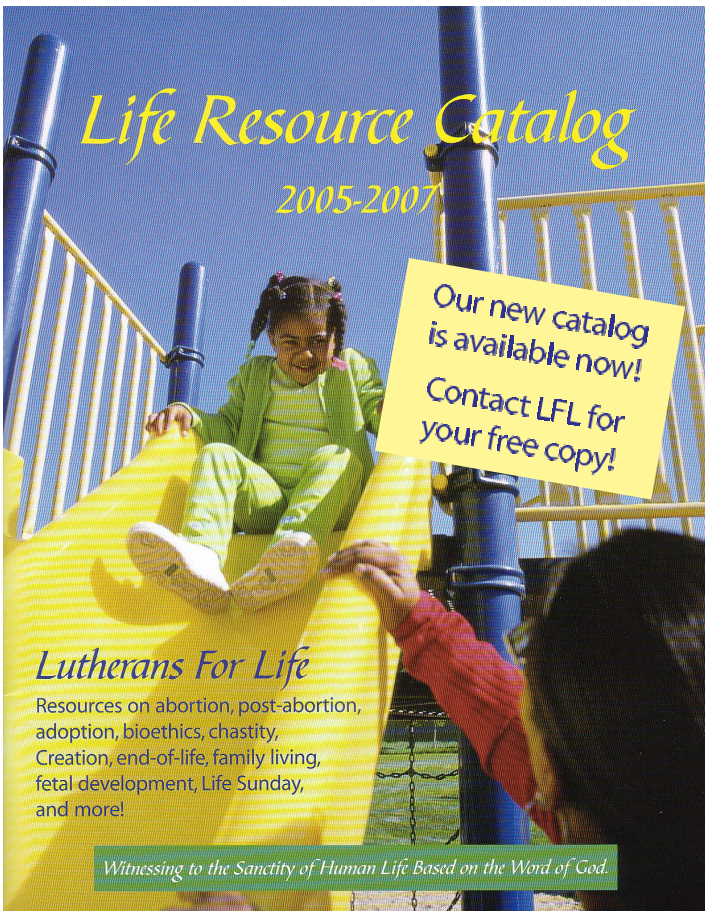
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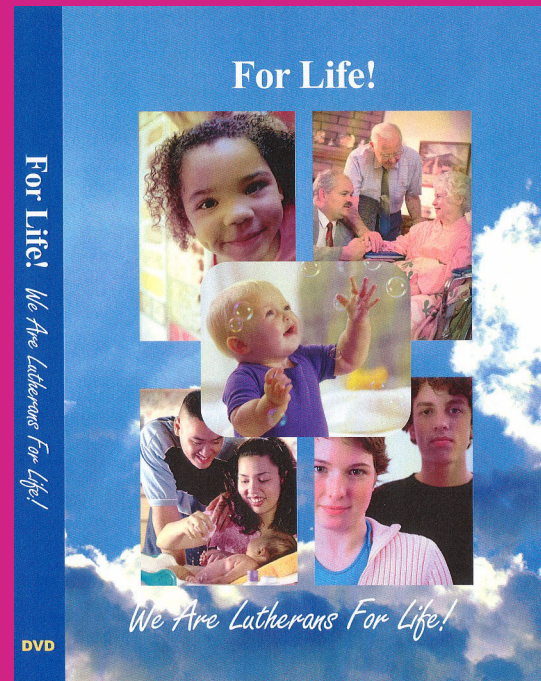


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