

LifeDate

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

SPRING 2004

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



see page 12

"More Words - Less Meaning"

When it comes to understanding what is called "emergency contraception" (EC) or the "morning after pill," the meanings of words is crucially important.



Lutherans For Life

25 Years For Life!

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Spotlight on Lutherans For Life



The Goodness of Marriage

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

In God's "very good" creation, there was one thing "not good." "It is not good for the man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18). It was not companionship that the man needed. It was relationship, a relationship that would be like God's relationship with him. Adam may have found a companion as all the animals paraded before him, but he found no one suitable for this kind of relationship (Genesis 2:20). He who bore the image of God needed someone who also bore the image of God in order to have a God-like relationship. So God made a woman. She was created in God's image (Genesis 1:27). She was like the man (Genesis 2:23). She was different from the man. **She was created at a different time, in a different way, and for a different purpose (Genesis 2:22, 2:15, 3:20).** It was that difference that made possible the kind of relationship God wanted.

Adam and Eve were capable of becoming one flesh and in that relationship could mirror their relationship with their Creator. God brought them together in this relationship called marriage (Genesis 2:24). Marriage was a part of all that was "good" in God's perfect creation. Marriage was not given as an institution to curb sin. There was no sin. Marriage was given as the foundation for the one flesh relationship.

Marriage was also the relationship through which procreation would continue. "Be fruitful and increase in number" (Genesis 1:28). Marriage is to produce children. The effects of sin upon God's biological process for procreation sometimes makes it difficult or impossible for a marriage to fulfill this blessing. However, barring such unfortunate circumstances, children are to be the result of this one flesh union.

Sin has certainly brought problems to marriage. The reality of problematic marriages, however, does not abdicate the essence of what marriage is. Jesus makes this clear. "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one" (Mark 10:6-8). What God intended marriage to be in the beginning, He still intends marriage to be.

Throughout Scripture marriage is a picture of God's relationship to His people. God is Israel's "husband" (Isaiah 54:5, Jeremiah 3:14, Hosea 2:19-20). As such, He rejoices over His bride (Isaiah 62:5). Jesus is pictured as the bridegroom and the Church His bride (Rev. 19:7). It is His unconditional

love for His bride the Church that caused Him to give Himself up for her (Ephesians 5:25).

Marriage, then, is a God-given institution between a man and a woman. This one flesh union reflects our relationship with our Creator and Redeemer and is the means God has chosen for procreation. Based on this, we who are married are compelled to humble ourselves before God and ask His forgiveness for all the times we have dishonored marriage by trivializing its importance, by failing to reflect Christ's love in our marriages, and by our failure to connect the importance of marriage and our relationship to God.

This view of marriage also compels God's people to reject homosexual unions as contrary to the Word of God. The "sameness" of homosexuals prevents a one-flesh union as well as the possibility of the procreation of children. Such unions do not and cannot reflect our relationship with our Creator and Redeemer. Such unions are based upon a lie rather than the truth of God (Romans 1:25-27). Such unions cannot constitute a marriage.



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My Friend's Dress Rehearsal for Eternity

by Linda D. Bartlett
President - National Lutherans For Life

January 12, 2004, will be forever etched in my mind as a gift from God. It was a blue sky and warm sun kind of day. The Creator of memories knew it was a perfect day for my husband, Paul, and me to spend with our dear friend, Jo Potter. We enjoyed a long, leisurely lunch together. We went to a nearby bookstore where Jo purchased the best-seller *The Purpose Driven Life*. Then, as if to end the day with a flourish, we had afternoon tea in her daughter's home. As we stood at the door later that afternoon, saying our good-byes, Jo beamed. "I can't begin to tell you how good this day has been for me," she said. "I've enjoyed it so much." We spoke of meeting for worship together the next Sunday and then drove away.

Two days later, quickly and without warning, God called my friend Jo home. She died on January 14 from a ruptured aorta. I felt an immediate and deep loss. I will miss my friend. But, I will forever thank God for the precious woman that He placed in my life and the example she set for me and so many others. I thank Him, also, for this friend who cared more about the needs of others than her own.

Jo was first my mother's friend. After my mother died, Jo seemed to "adopt" me. She and her husband, Monte, kept track of my involvement in Lutherans For Life. They were extremely supportive and encouraging of my work in the pro-life mission field. But, for health reasons, neither Jo nor Monte could be as involved as they wanted to be. Monte lived his days hooked to an oxygen tank, and Jo suffered severe pain from rheumatoid arthritis; however, neither of them ever complained. Instead, they were always focused on the interests and comforts of others. There was always laughter in their home. Going to their house to offer care meant leaving feeling cared for. When Monte was called home in March of 2003, Jo was sure and steady. Even though her beloved husband was taken from her, she witnessed the confidence of a purpose driven life. Her purpose was not to draw others to herself but to God through Jesus Christ.

Jo was not driven by her self-defined identity and feelings of the moment but by purpose. Her life will remain both an encouragement and a model for my own. How like God to bless me with a visual remembrance! Somehow, it seems so very appropriate that, on the last shopping trip of her earthly life, I was there to see Jo purchase *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren.

The book has its theological shortcomings. Still, I can imagine the glow of Jo's countenance as she read the inside

cover, "You are not an accident. Even before the universe was created, God had you in mind, and He planned you for His purposes. These purposes extend far beyond the few years you will spend on earth. You were made to last forever!" I think these words would have moved my friend Jo to joyful tears. Because her physical condition prevented her from doing so many of the things she wanted to do, Jo needed to know that God was doing something special with her life. Being human, I'm sure that she struggled daily with God's will, often asking, "Why, God? Why can't I have a strong body to do great things for You?" But, knowing my friend, I think she would have found contentment in trusting that her purpose was to glorify God in all circumstances and, in so doing, leading others to the Father.

Jo's body was frail and often racked with pain; however I think that Jo understood that her present sufferings were insignificant compared to the glory that would soon be revealed to her (Romans 8:18). I think that Jo trusted in the power of the Spirit who helped her in her weakness and interceded for her (8:26). I think that Jo found joy in knowing that she was the part of the body entrusted with the gift of encouragement (12:4-8). Using this gift, Jo showed respect for others while being happy in her confidence, patient in trouble, and always hospitable (12:10-13). As she saw the day of the Lord coming, I think that Jo was faithful to consider how to encourage others to show love and do good things (Hebrews 10:24).

I believe my friend knew this life is a dress rehearsal for the next. The way Jo treated people and helped them re-focus their priorities was testimony to her understanding of eternal life. She did not let circumstances keep her from running the race that was before her nor miss the opportunity to be the cheerleader for somebody else.

Jo Potter was more than a friend to me. She was a reminder that we discover meaning and purpose only when we see God as the Creator and Sustainer of our lives. She was a reminder that God speaks to us and through us to others in all circumstances. She was a reminder that nothing else matters except for a redeemed and abundant life in Jesus.

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31 Things You Can Do to Be Pro-Life

January 22, 2004, marked the 31st anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. Here is a list of 31 things you can do to be pro-life (adapted from LifeWire/Christian Life Resources):

- Sign up (or encourage others to sign up) to receive the *LifeDate* journal at no cost. Call or e-mail. LFL or go online at www.lutheransforlife.org.
- Read God's Word and pray for the *GOD'S WORD For Life* pro-life Bible project.
- Send congratulatory cards to families who have had a baby (watch for birth announcements in local paper). Send brochure or gift too.
- Volunteer at a local caring pregnancy center.
- Wear a "Precious Feet" or "Precious Hands" pin.
- Order and sign a Christian version of the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care. See *Medical Directives for Your State* under "Front Page Headlines" at www.lutheransforlife.org.
- Attend a state or national LFL conference.
- Pray for LFL and other pro-life ministries.
- Attend pro-life community seminars.
- Subscribe to e-mail Action Alerts from LFL.
- Contribute to Lutherans For Life.
- View pro-life videos (available for rent and purchase from LFL).
- Organize a local Lutherans For Life chapter.
- Sponsor a Sanctity of Life Sunday at your church.
- Ask to use LFL Bible studies at your church.
- Become a Life Ministry Coordinator.
- Maintain a "Current Events" bulletin board posting newspaper or *LifeDate* articles on life issues.
- Add your church to the list to receive bulk shipments of *LifeDate* (for the cost of shipping).
- Donate pro-life books to your church library.
- Write your legislators.
- Distribute *The Servanthood of Adoption* brochure in your church.
- "Adopt" a family in need at Christmas.
- Sponsor a food drive or baby shower.
- Place a pro-life message on your answering machine.
- Sponsor a youth group/school tour to a neo-natal unit of a local hospital.

- Show LFL's *For Life* video (with Bible study) at your church.
- Offer to baby-sit for a single parent/caregiver/parents of handicapped child.
- Be a special friend/advocate for a single mother
- Offer your office skills to a counseling center
- Distribute *Is Abortion an Election Issue?* brochure
- Remember senior citizens
- Talk to your doctor about your pro-life wishes

State Pro-Life Report Cards

Louisiana is first, Vermont is worst, while Texas is the most improved in state efforts to protect women and unborn children. Americans United for Life (AUL) recently released its inaugural 2004 State Report Cards, ranking states based upon 24 health-related and life-affirming criteria.

States were credited for initiatives designed to protect women, their health, and their unborn children. Louisiana's top score of 36 (out of a possible 42) indicates that elected officials in each state can do more to safeguard women and the unborn. "The states are critical players in the cause for life," said Denise M. Burke, AUL staff counsel and project coordinator. "The states are where more women are protected, where more life-affirming laws are passed, and where more lives are saved."

More than one third of all possible points were awarded in three primary categories:

- Informed consent (with a mandatory reflection period and a warning about the link between abortion and breast cancer) - six points
- Protection for unborn children from criminal assaults - five points
- Health and safety regulations for abortion clinics - four points

Additionally, AUL assigned a letter grade reflecting the strength and productivity of each state's 2003 legislative session. States that passed two or more protective laws received an A. Nine states (Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia) received top grades for their efforts last year.



“While 2003 was a strong session for legislation that protects women and unborn children in states like Texas, Missouri, and Minnesota, the sad reality is that 32 states scored below 25, failing to adopt and enforce many basic, common-sense legal protections for women and unborn children,” said Burke. “In a year when national and international events raised awareness for the need to safeguard innocent life from violence, too many governors and state legislatures failed to follow through with any meaningful action.”

Actions and positions by a state’s governor, attorney general, and its highest court also affected the final tabulation. Five states (Alaska, Florida, Indiana, Maine and North Dakota) lost points for state supreme court rulings harmful to women and unborn children.

“Statewide elections for governor and attorney general have a tremendous impact on how vigorously states will defend the protective laws that legislatures pass,” said Burke. “Too often, judges thwart the will of the people, invalidating laws such as informed consent and parental notice laws, which have significant and widespread public support. Governors and attorneys general have to be prepared to vigorously defend these laws against the legal challenges that will inevitably be filed by many abortion advocacy groups.”

A link to the complete 2004 AUL State Report Cards is available at www.lutheransforlife.org.

(LifeSiteNews.com, 1/29)

Poll Results:

Majority Believe Abortion Makes Women’s Lives Worse / Teens More Pro-Life Than Adults

A new national poll indicates that the majority of Americans believe abortion makes women’s lives worse. According to the poll, only 16 percent believe abortion generally makes women’s lives better. Even among those who describe themselves as “pro-choice,” less than 30 percent believe abortion generally improves women’s lives.

In addition, the poll results reveal that 67 percent of pro-choice women stated they would be “more likely to vote for a candidate who calls for government support for grief counseling programs to assist women who experience emotional problems after an abortion.”

David C. Reardon, Ph.D., director of the Elliot Institute, believes the poll results reflect a reality that has long been misunderstood by politicians on both sides of the abortion debate. “At least one of every four women voters has had an abortion, and most of these women consider it to be an ugly, painful memory,” he said. “Most have many regrets about their abortions, even if they believe it to have been their ‘only choice.’ This is why they don’t support the radical agenda of

pro-abortion special interest groups. They’ve been there, done that, and hated it.”

Polling data also suggests that pro-life efforts to address the problem of coerced abortions will produce significant political gains for pro-life candidates. “Between 30 and 60 percent of women who have had abortions felt pressured by others to submit to an abortion,” Reardon said. “Candidates need to boldly and consistently articulate their desire to ‘prevent unwanted, unnecessary, and unsafe abortions’ and to ‘promote healing for those who already suffer from past abortions.’ These two themes will strongly resonate with the real needs and concerns of post-abortive women.”



The results of a recent Gallup Youth Survey indicate most U.S. teens (aged 13 to 17) do not consider abortion to be morally acceptable, and most also believe that it should only be legal under specific circumstances, if at all.

The poll conducted in August 2003 revealed that more than 7 in 10 teenagers (72%) said that abortion is morally wrong. Thirty-two percent of teens think abortions should be illegal in all circumstances, and 47% said that abortions should be legal only under certain circumstances. Fewer than one in five teens (19%) believe abortion should be legal in all circumstances.

The young people are significantly more pro-life than adults. According to a Gallup Poll conducted in late October 2003, fewer than one in five adults (17%) support full legal restriction of abortion; 55% of adults believe it should be legal under certain circumstances; and 26% think it should be legal under any circumstances.

The poll found that teens who do not attend church are more likely than teens who attend church to find abortion morally acceptable. Only 12% of teens who attend church consider abortion morally acceptable, compared with 38% who do not attend church. And churchgoers are significantly more likely (40%) than non-churchgoers (26%) to say that abortion should be illegal in all circumstances.

(LifeSiteNews.com, 11/20, 1/29)

Planned Parenthood Kills Record Number of Babies; Brings in Over \$36 Million Profit in 2002-2003

Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) has released its 2002-2003 Annual Report which shows that the leading US abortion group killed 227,385 babies in utero in 2002 with surgical abortion. While the overall number of abortions are declining in the United States, PPFA surgical abortions increased over 14,000 from 2001 and the group's profits shot up 300% from \$12.2 million in 2001 to \$36.6 million last year. The profit margin is based on the 2002 PPFA income of \$766.6 million, \$254.4 million of which was taxpayer money.

Commenting on the report, Jim Sedlak, executive director of American Life League's STOPP International project, said, "Planned Parenthood claims it seeks to reduce abortion, but its abortion numbers are skyrocketing – over 3 million in its own facilities since 1970. When it opened an abortion facility in Bryan Texas, the health department reports there show abortions jumped a whopping 153%. The evidence is clear. More Planned Parenthood facilities means more abortions."

The report also notes that PPFA may be responsible for hundreds of thousands of other deaths of unborn children in 2002 with the doling out of 633,756 abortifacient morning after pills.

"Planned Parenthood did 115 abortions for every adoption referral to an outside agency and 14 abortions for each prenatal care client," said Ed Szymkowiak, national director of ALL's STOPP. "It is amazing that PPFA can even think people will believe that it is not a pro-abortion organization."

(LifeSiteNews, 12/11)



ents often think that they will have the embryos implanted at a later time. But the embryos cannot live indefinitely in liquid nitrogen, and after a period of years, they die. "Not making a decision is the same as making a decision to destroy the embryos. (They) won't last forever in liquid nitrogen," said Dr. Jeffrey Keenan, Director of the Southeastern Fertility Center. The Center oversees the National Embryo Donation Center, located on the campus of Baptist Hospital for Women in Knoxville, Tennessee.

According to Keenan, less than 10,000 embryos in U.S. fertility clinics are currently earmarked for donation to other couples, with about 10,000 others slated for death for the purposes of scientific research. The rest, some 380,000, belong to couples who say they plan to use the embryos – eventually. But, Keenan says, the embryos may die before they get the chance.

(LifeNews.com, 11/21)

What happens if you make abortion illegal?

by Dr. John C. Willke

In the late 1980s, my wife, Barbara, and I wrote the book *Abortion Questions and Answers*. It supplanted the universally used "bible of the movement," *Handbook on Abortion*. Between the two, they have been published in 20 languages. One of those languages was Polish, and therein lies a story.

A group of pro-life people headed by Mr. and Mrs. Lech Kowalewski of Gdansk, Poland, notified us that they would be publishing a Polish translation of *Abortion Questions and Answers*. When they asked if we would visit Poland and accompany them on a nationwide book tour introducing it, we agreed. In our two-week tour we were able to give away all 10,000 published copies. But perhaps most importantly, we had an opportunity to speak in their Parliament, distributing books to the elected members there.

Time passed, and the Solidarity Movement selected its first democratically elected Parliament. The Premier was a strong pro-lifer, Lech Walesa. In this atmosphere, in 1993 a bill was introduced to make abortion illegal. After the bill was debated in the Parliament, an elated Mr. Kowalewski called us.

The debate had taken most of a day and was openly broadcast throughout Poland. The Kowalewskis listened to every word of it and related to me, "Here came Mr. A., a pro-abortion member, who vigorously criticized the proposed legislation. To answer him, up stood Mr. B. As he spoke, one of our friends shouted, 'He's reading out of our book on page 74!'" This exchange of views was repeated many times during the debate. In the end the pro-life vote carried and the law passed.

Consider Embryo Adoption

The Christian Medical Association is calling on couples who have used in vitro fertilization to create human embryos to consider allowing another couple to adopt the children if they do not plan to implant and give birth to the embryos themselves.

It has been estimated that as many as 400,000 human embryos are now frozen in U.S. fertility clinics, awaiting implantation. The problem is only a small fraction of these embryos are currently available for adoption. Biological par-

Then a surprising thing happened. For the 44 years prior to this law being passed, a communist law allowed state-funded abortion-on-demand through the first trimester. Although the annual number of abortions varied, it had been as high as 180,000; abortion was an ingrained experience in that nation.

Recently, I returned to Poland for another book tour. I discovered that the number of abortions in Poland during 2001 was only 124 . . . in the entire country. Was this possible? Were these figures of fewer abortions accurate? How could this be, when nearly every media outlet had repeated the dire warnings of International Planned Parenthood, the United Nations, The World Bank, etc.: “You may have the legislative muscle here in 1993 to pass a law to forbid abortions, but it won’t do any good. You’ll just drive them underground. Women will be instrumented on the outside. They will bleed. They will become infected and flood into your hospitals, and you will not be able to count the number of ‘miscarriages’ that will occur.”

On this trip I asked my friends to give me the national statistics on miscarriages: in 1955, before the law was passed, 59,000 miscarriages were listed; in 1999, there were 41,000. That certainly didn’t look like something driven underground, but maybe they were hidden in another source, such as deaths due to pregnancy and birth? In 1990, 70 women died; in 1996, only 21. How could this be? I investigated further potential hiding places.

When women have abortions the cervix is often weakened, which results in an increase in premature births. Premies die more often than full-term babies. Therefore, I asked for the statistics on neonatal deaths: in 1990, 19 premature infants died for every 1000 live births; in 2001, the figure was 7.7.

Faced with these solid results, I questioned the accuracy of the statistics and discovered that the 1993 Polish law requires annual reports from three separate federal agencies. Pro-abortion groups have challenged the agency reports, which continue to agree with each other . . . and the reports have proven accurate. Not surprisingly, the pro-abortion people keep repeating – without a shred of evidence – that at least 190,000 women get abortions every year in Poland.

And so, what is the story that I have to tell? Here is a modern Western nation of about 40 million people. After four decades of state-paid abortion-on-demand, this new law made abortion illegal. None of the dire predictions of consequences materialized. Instead, the actual effects were almost no abortions, healthier women, and greater infant survival.

What we have here is a test market in a modern nation that shows us, verified by three federal agencies, that forbidding abortions will not drive them underground. What we have here is an important support for pro-life.

(Dr. Willke is president of Life Issues Institute, www.lifeissues.org. © 2003 by National Religious Broadcasters. Reprinted with permission.)

Abortion Numbers & Other Stats

Total number of abortions in the U.S. from 1973-2002 estimated at 44,010,378.

(based on Alan Guttmacher Institute and Centers for Disease Control statistics of 1.33 million, projected for 2002)



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

(National Right to Life Committee)

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

(National Right to Life Committee)

Out of the 72 million children in the U.S.

- 69% live in two parent households
- 22% with mother
- 4% with father
- 4% with other

(U.S. Census 2000)

Sixty-eight percent of parents want schools to teach teens that individuals who remain abstinent until marriage have the best chances of marital stability and happiness.

(Parent Survey by Zogby International)

U.S. Adoptions

- 42,000 U.S. families adopted a baby in 2000 alone.
- One in every eight adopted children has a disability.
- Foreign adoptions get a lot of attention, they represent less than 15 percent of the total counted in the census.

(U.S. Census 2000)



Statistics from www.christianliferesources.com and www.nrlc.org.

UK Investigates Legalized Euthanasia

On January 14, the British House of Lords took an unprecedented step by appointing a committee to investigate a bill to legalize assisted suicide there. The Private Member Bill was first presented to the House last summer by Lord Joffe. The bill would make medically-assisted suicide legal for terminally ill patients who had considered all other options.

The inquiry is the first of its type in nine years. It will call expert witnesses to consider whether a person should be allowed to request medical assistance to end his or her life. It will also force the Government to defend its opposition to euthanasia, should the committee conclude that Britain should follow the lead of Switzerland, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

Lord Joffe claims that 80 percent of British citizens support the legalization of euthanasia. However, a May 2003 UK Right To Life organization report states that “Almost three out of four doctors (74%) would refuse to perform assisted suicide if it were legalized. A clear majority (56%) also consider that it would be impossible to set safe bounds to euthanasia as compared to 37% who disagree.” This was based on the UK Opinion Research Business survey completed by 986 doctors there in March and April 2003.

On the euthanasia.com web site, Dr. David Stevens, executive director of the 13,000 member Christian Medical & Dental Society (CMDS) (www.cmds.org), responds to a February 1999 report published by the *Journal of Medical Ethics*. The report states, “The Netherlands’ failed attempts to regulate euthanasia is compelling evidence that physician-assisted suicide should not be legalized. And the national organization of doctors says thousands of vulnerable people will die as long as physician-assisted suicide is permitted.”

Dr. Stevens responds, saying “One in five cases of assisted suicide occurred in Holland without the patient’s consent, and in 17 percent of the cases, other treatment options were available. The survey also revealed that almost two-thirds of the euthanasia cases in 1995 were not reported. With this kind of irresponsibility and neglect, who will ever know what really went on between a doctor and a patient when a patient is dead? If we can’t even control the actions of one doctor—Jack Kevorkian—when physician-assisted suicide is illegal, how can we expect to regulate the actions of thousands of doctors where physician-assisted suicide is legal? The Holland experience with euthanasia is one we can’t afford to repeat.”

(LifeSiteNews.com, 1/5; Psychiatric News, Volume 39 Number 2, 1/16; LifeWire, 1/20)

Terminally Ill Choose Fasting Over Physician-Assisted Suicide

When researchers looked at cases of terminally ill patients in Oregon who took their own lives, they were surprised at how many chose a method other than the state’s legalized option of physician-assisted suicide.

Oregon Public Health Services physicians have found that during the five years since physician-assisted suicide has been legal in Oregon, as reported in the March 6, 2003, *New England Journal of Medicine*, there has been an increase in the number of terminally ill patients who have elected this option. But, of those terminally ill Oregon patients who do decide to precipitate their deaths, twice as many die via cessation of eating and drinking than via physician-assisted suicide.

In 2001, researchers at Oregon Health and Science University mailed a questionnaire to nurses who cared for patients in all 50 Medicare-certified, home-hospice programs in Oregon, as well as two hospices in neighboring states that provide services for patients from Oregon.

Of the 300 nurses who responded, 102 reported that during the previous four years they had at least one terminally ill patient who had accelerated death via cessation of eating and drinking, whereas only 55 reported that they had at least one terminally ill patient who had hurried death via physician-assisted suicide. In other words, when terminally ill patients wanted to die prematurely, it looked as if ceasing to eat and drink was twice as popular as was physician help.

Some of the major reasons why terminally ill patients elected to die via fasting and dehydration were that they were ready to die, believed that continuing to live was pointless, experienced a poor quality of life, or wanted to control the manner in which they died. Unbearable physical suffering did not appear to be a major factor.

The responses also showed that only 9 percent of the patients who refused food and liquids had contact with a psychiatrist, psychologist, or mental health nurse practitioner before they died by this method. In contrast, 45 percent of those who died via physician-assisted suicide had seen a psychiatrist or mental health professional before dying. Therefore, it is unknown how many of the patients who speeded up death via fasting and dehydration did so because they were clinically depressed.

(LifeWire, 1/20)

Life or Death Decisions through the Centuries

A brief history of physician-assisted suicide and termination of life issues:



400 B.C. — “I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked, nor suggest any such counsel,” states the original Hippocratic Oath, written by a Greek physician who is considered the father of Western medicine.

1828 — The first American law outlawing physician-assisted suicide is passed in New York.

1939 — In Nazi Germany, Adolph Hitler orders “mercy killing” of the sick and disabled. He also implements a euthanasia program to eliminate “life unworthy of life.”

1975 — In New Jersey, Karen Ann Quinlan, 21, collapses after taking a combination of alcohol and tranquilizers at a party. She suffers brain damage and lapses into a “vegetative state.” Her family successfully battles for the right to remove her life support machinery. But after her respirator is unplugged, Quinlan remains in a coma until her death in 1985.

1997 — The U.S. Supreme Court rules individual states can decide whether to permit or prohibit physician-assisted suicide. This decision makes it possible for physician-assisted suicide to become illegal in most states and legal in one.

1998 — The state of Oregon passes the Death with Dignity Act which legalizes physician-assisted suicide.

1999 — After being acquitted several times for assisting in the death of patients, Dr. Jack Kevorkian, 70, is sentenced to a 10- to 25-year prison term for giving a lethal injection to a patient whose death was shown in a widely-seen “60 Minutes” TV program.

2000 — The Netherlands legalizes euthanasia.

2001 — U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft issues an order saying doctors from Oregon can lose federal registration to prescribe federally controlled substances for assisted suicide. However, it is challenged.

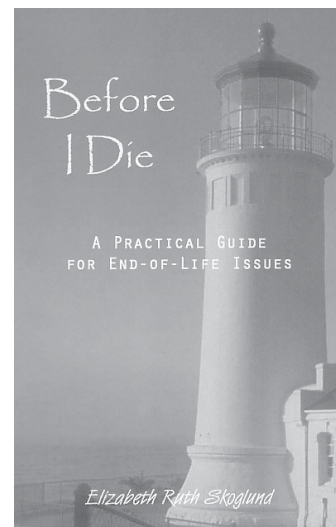
2002 — Belgium legalizes euthanasia.

2003 — The husband of Terri Schindler-Schiavo fights for a right to die for his wife who has been in a “vegetative state” since 1990. But it turns into a legal battle when the woman’s parents don’t support it. Six days after the hospital removes a tube, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and the Florida Legislature pass a bill ordering the tube be reinserted. Schindler’s husband sues Bush, saying he is interfering with his wife’s constitutional right to decide her own medical treatment.

(The Express-Times, 1/9; LifeWire, 1/15)

End-of-Life Issues

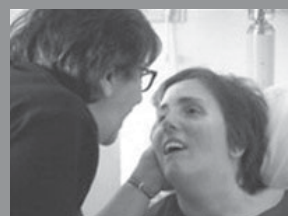
An excellent end-of-life resource from Lutherans For Life . . .



Contents include:

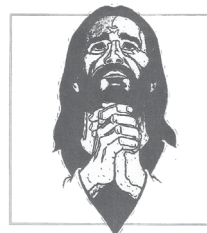
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Quality of Life • Defining the Moment of Death
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First Aid for Caregivers and the Bereaved
Words of Encouragement

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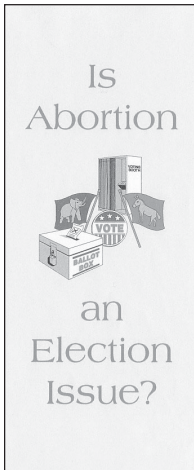
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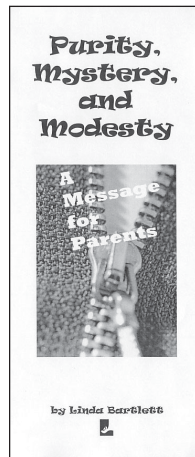
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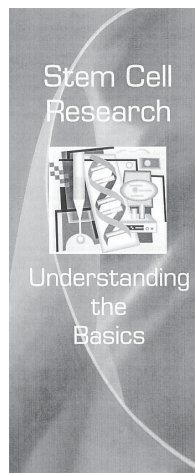
Purity, Mystery, and Modesty -

Children are entrusted to parents by God. Parents need not be intimidated in their role as teachers for they have been equipped for the job. The Bible contains everything that is needed to help boys and girls respect themselves and others, understand why men and women are equal but different, resist temptation, and protect human life from the moment of conception. **\$0.25 each plus S & H - Item #903T**



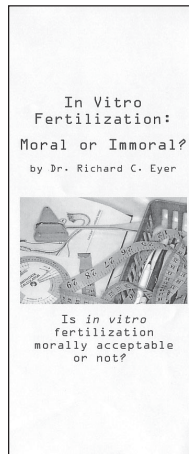
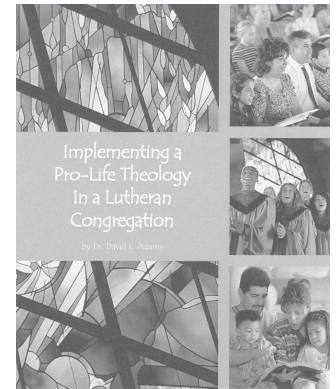
Cloning: Understanding the Basics - The cloning of Dolly the sheep is old news. Now there is talk about cloning humans to “replace” a dead child or to provide body parts for transplant. There is even a cult that sees cloning as the means to eternal life. The vast majority of people are opposed to such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

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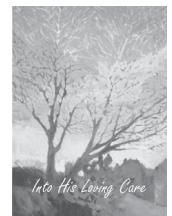
It is time for the Church to put its pro-life convictions into action! Unless our congregations take action that makes those convictions a part of the way we do our ministry work, we shall cease to be a pro-life church body within a generation. This new booklet outlines the three—at the very least—basic needs: 1) a plan to teach the faith; 2) a plan to care for people in need; and 3) a plan to witness publicly to the teachings of God’s Word. **\$0.75 each plus S & H - Item #208B**



In Vitro Fertilization: Moral or Immoral? -

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

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“Emergency Contraception” More Words – Less Meaning

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

The subtitle of this article is not a spin-off of a well-known, barley-based beverage commercial. It is a spin off of Ecclesiastes 6:11. *“The more the words, the less the meaning, and how does that profit anyone?”*

The meaning of words is important. When it comes to understanding what is called “emergency contraception” (EC) or the “morning after pill,” the meaning of words is crucially important. Here are some words from Planned Parenthood’s website which are typical of the words used in describing “emergency contraception.”

Typical EC Wording

“Emergency contraception can prevent pregnancy after unprotected vaginal intercourse. It is also called post-coital or ‘morning-after’ contraception.” “Emergency contraception is used only if a woman is not already pregnant from a previous act of intercourse. EC prevents pregnancy by stopping ovulation, fertilization, or implantation. It will not effect an existing pregnancy. And it will not cause an abortion.” The two products designed specifically for EC, Preven® and Plan B®, use nearly identical words in their advertising.

Deceptive Wording

The deception of these “safe” sounding words is found in the presupposed meaning attached to them. It is true that EC—which is really a high dose of the “birth control” pill—does work by stopping ovulation, slowing sperm travel, and, if ovulation and fertilization have occurred, by preventing implantation of the embryo. However, you can only say EC prevents pregnancy by stopping implantation if you define pregnancy as occurring after implantation. Unfortunately, this meaning of pregnancy is becoming more and more accepted. The deception of these words then is that even though what would implant is a unique, six-day-old, developing human being, if he or she does not implant, there is no pregnancy. Also misleading is the fact that the meaning given to abortion is “termination of a pregnancy.” Therefore, if there is no pregnancy, there cannot be an abortion.

Asking the Right Question

All the words used by Planned Parenthood and the makers of EC obscure the meaning of what EC really does when it prevents implantation. The important question is not, “When does pregnancy begin?” The important question is, “When does life begin?” Every high school biology student knows that life begins at fertilization. Newspaper articles on EC have stated that what is prevented from implanting in the uterus is an egg. This is biological absurdity! What is prevented from implanting by EC is a human life.

Many Words

Planned Parenthood uses a lot of nice sounding words hailing the benefits of EC. The advisory panel for the FDA, with a lot of words, has recommended that EC be made available without prescription. The national media is using a lot of words making EC sound safe and easy. But the many words are lessening the meaning of what is really involved.

One Word

We could use a lot of words to counter all of this. We could talk about the side effects, the risks, and the dangers of young girls being able to obtain and use these drugs. But only one word is necessary—LIFE. With fewer words, the meaning becomes clearer. All life—regardless of circumstances or condition or stage along life’s continuum—is a gift from God, a gift to be protected and nourished.

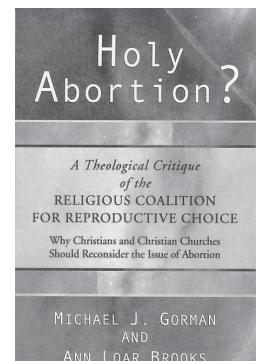
God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few. (Ecclesiastes 5:2b)



Holy Abortion?

exposes the radical, un-Biblical views of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. Reasoned, well-documented, and endorsed by the National Pro-Life Religious Council. A must-read!

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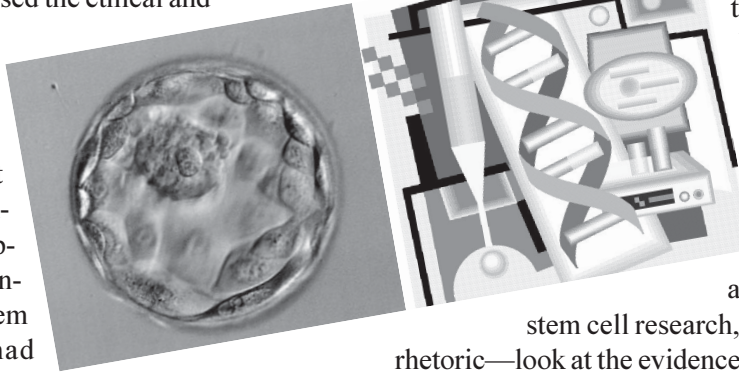


Good News Is No News

Why the Media Ignores Adult Stem Cell Research

by Charles Colson

Wesley Smith, a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute, recently spoke at an “educational symposium” to support a human cloning ban in Kentucky. At the symposium, Smith and his fellow scholars discussed the ethical and scientific problems with embryonic stem cell research, which creates cloned humans for the purpose of harvesting cells. But they also spent nearly forty-five minutes talking about “exciting” developments in the “morally non-controversial” field of adult stem cell research. And they had plenty to talk about.



Scientists have experimented using human umbilical cord blood stem cells in mice and creating human blood vessels that might restore eyesight to patients with diabetes-related blindness. Some diabetes patients have been treated with pancreatic tissue from cadavers, and 80 percent have achieved insulin independence. Muscle tissue has been regenerated in mice with muscular dystrophy. Even spinal cords have been regenerated using gene therapy. All of this happened with *adult* stem cells.

So there was plenty of good news to report. But the *Louisville Courier-Journal's* article on the symposium downplayed this, giving very little space to what adult stem cell research has accomplished. On the other hand, cloning advocates' dubious claims about what they think they might someday be able to do were reported in detail. Smith adds, “In a curious journalistic approach, cloning supporters from the Universities of Kentucky and Louisville were quoted extensively rebutting our wholly unreported remarks . . .”

Wesley Smith generously refuses to speculate on the reasons, but I'll speculate.

First of all, much of the drive to protect human embryos comes from a pro-life coalition. If there is any disfavored class in American society, it's pro-lifers.

Second, the biotech industry and scientists generally are vehemently opposed to any restrictions on research—forget about moral objections. They believe that there should never be limits on what they can examine. Anybody who proposes any kind of limitations is seen as trying to take away scientists' freedom.

This attitude plays right into the hands of the mainstream press, because it fits their cherished stereotypes about the courageous benefactors of mankind fighting for their inde-

pendence from narrow-minded, anti-research religious cranks. Stereotypes trump the evidence. This kind of thing also gives the press an opportunity to beat up on President Bush, who has taken the reasoned position of not funding any new embryonic stem cell research lines.

So people like Wesley Smith, who are advocating a course that would benefit untold numbers of patients, have been accused of being inhumane toward suffering people. And bad news about embryonic stem cells gets censored—such as the fact that they are causing tumors in animal studies. So when you read the papers and see scientists and stars testifying in Congress about cloning and embryonic

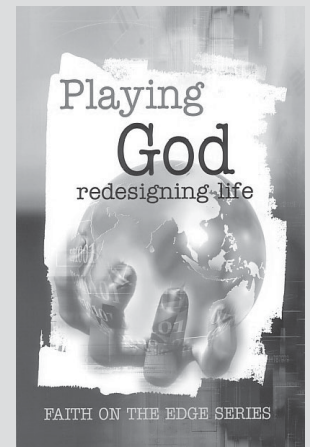
stem cell research, beware. Don't just listen to the rhetoric—look at the evidence. Then help educate your neighbors. In this case, as in so many others, the best scientific answer is also the right one morally. And if the press won't say it, we must.

(Breakpoint.org, 1/23. Copyright © 2004 Prison Fellowship Ministries. Reprinted with permission.)

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Parents Biggest Factor in Incidence of Teen Sex

A new survey conducted by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy has recently revealed that parents are the greatest influence in teenagers' decisions to engage in sexual activities. Teens said that parents had the greatest influence (45 percent) on whether or not they engaged in sexual activities as a teen versus the influence of friends (31 percent). Adults tended to think they had little impact on their teenage children's decisions to engage in sexual activity.

The surveyors telephoned 1000 teens aged 12 to 19 and 1000 adults 20 years or older and polled them on such things as their perception of sexual activity among peers and what factors influenced their decisions to engage in sexual activity.

67 percent of teens expressed regret over having engaged in sexual activity and wished they had waited. Teens also reported that had they been able to have more honest conversations about the topic with their parents, it would have been easier to postpone sexual activity.

Compared to a previous poll done in 2000, there was a four percent increase in the number of teens who wished they had waited to engage in sexual activity. The pollsters did not ask how long the teens thought it necessary to abstain from sexual activities; 84 percent felt that a couple should be married before having children.

(LifeSiteNews.net, 12/18)

Explosion in STDs Caused by 'Safe Sex' Message, According to Researchers

At a public health conference held in mid-December in Washington DC, doctors cited evidence of an epidemic of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) among the nation's teenagers and cited "safe-sex" programs and condom-distribution as contributing factors of the problem.



At the conference, researcher Dr. David Hager reported that within the US each year, chlamydia cases increase by 4 million, pelvic inflammatory disease by 1.2 million, gonorrhea by 2 million, genital herpes by 1 million, and human papilloma virus (HPV) by 5.5 million. According to the American Social Health Association, 3.8 million of these and other STD cases are contracted by US teens - the highest contraction rate within the general US population. In fact, almost 45% of all teenagers and young adults are infected with at least one STD by their mid-twenties.

Many of these STDs cannot be cured, leading to long-term health problems including infertility and even cancer. 95% of all cases of cervical cancer are associated with HPV infection, resulting in 4000 deaths a year in the United States.

Yet teenagers continue to be the most targeted group for the safe-sex message, which advocates condom use to prevent the spread of STDs, including HIV. According to groups such as Planned Parenthood, "safer-sex practice allows couples to reduce their sexual health risks. Safer sex is anything we do to lower our risk of sexually transmitted infection."

Unfortunately, new statistics and studies have concluded that "while condom usage has increased most among teens, STDs have also increased most among teens." Project Reality, the advocacy group sponsoring the conference, points out "the popular claim that 'condoms help prevent the spread of STDs,' is not supported by the data. If condoms were effective against STDs, the increase in condom usage would correlate to a decrease in STDs overall - which is not the case. Rather as condom usage increases, so do rates of STDs."

In addition to such statistics on STD cases, studies on sexual activity during adolescence also show increased percentages of depression and suicide, as well as an assortment of emotional problems including loss of self-respect, esteem, and trust among sexually active teens.

As Hager went on to point out, the only way to guarantee teens will not contract such diseases or prevent increases in these emotional and behavioral problems is to promote the delay of "sexual activity until they are in a mutually, monogamous relationship within marriage." The most effective messages promoting the delay of sexual activity came from parents and moral beliefs, which "accounted for 53% of the influences affecting teen decisions about sex."

Hager's presentation on teenage sexuality comes on the heels of similar statistics reported by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the American Cancer Society, and the National Institutes of Health, which show correlations between the increases in STD with increases in condom usage and promotion of the safe-sex message.

(Culture and Cosmos, Vol. 20, Culture of Life Foundation, 12/23; LifeWire, 12/29)

■Nine Hungarian hospitals have agreed not to perform abortions on the Day of the Unborn Child, the UN International Day of Life, and the feast of the holy innocents, thanks to the efforts of the pro-life group Alpha Alliance and others who organized a pro-life procession and prayer vigil in Budapest last month. Press coverage of the event increased after a disgruntled radio reporter said that he would exterminate all Christians from Hungarian society. (*Catholic World News*, 1/7; *SPUC*, 1/8)

■60% of teenage pregnancies in Surrey, UK, end in abortion, compared with the UK average of 46%, *This is Local London* reports. Figures show that a growing number of pregnant teenagers are opting for abortion. (*This is Local London*, *SPUC* 1/9)

■The number of abortions carried out in the Netherlands has dropped for the first time in 10 years, according to new figures. However, the number of teenagers and immigrants seeking abortion has increased, with over half of abortions performed on women with an immigrant background. One abortionist, Hanneke Bolt, claimed that teenage girls are not assertive enough with their boyfriends and cannot protect themselves. Her answer was to make the morning after pill more widely available. (*Expatica*, 1/9; *SPUC*, 1/12)

■The French health minister has rejected the term ‘murder’ to describe the killing of a severely disabled man by his mother. Marie Humbert gave her son, Vincent, an overdose after a traffic accident left him paralysed, blind, and mute. Jean-Francois Mattei the health minister said during a debate on French television: “There is a prohibition which we have held since time immemorial, ‘thou shalt not kill.’ For a long time this rule has been applied blindly. But things change with time. However the law has not changed and maintains strict penalties.” (*Borneo Bulletin*, 1/14; *SPUC*, 1/15)

■A member of the British Medical Association’s ethics committee has provoked outrage by claiming that infanticide is justifiable in some cases, such as disability. Professor John Harris was speaking at a debate on sex selection when he stated: “I don’t think infanticide is always unjustifiable. I don’t think it is plausible to think that there is any moral change that occurs during the journey down the birth canal.” He also said that infanticide is accepted in most countries and that it was for families to decide the fate of their child. (*The Telegraph*, 1/25; *SPUC*, 1/26)

■A 46-year-old woman has given birth to her own grandchildren, *The Guardian* reports. The woman offered to be a surrogate mother when her daughter and son-in-law from Essex were unable to find anyone suitable. Though the pro-

cedure was carried out in India, the HFEA (Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority) has said that it would not be illegal in the UK. Responding to the story, Nuala Scarisbrick of Life commented: “Once again the IVF [in vitro fertilization] industry has gone too far by changing the natural order of things beyond all recognition.” (*The Guardian*, 1/30; *SPUC*, 2/2)

■The Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences has said that doctors can help terminally ill patients to die under certain conditions, *SwissInfo* reports. Werner Stauffacher, president of the SAMS said of the new recommendations: “We still state that assisted suicide is not part of normal medical practice, but we add that there are situations where assisted suicide can be comprehensible. So it’s no longer a complete ‘no.’” Switzerland already has the largest number of assisted suicides in Europe, partly due to the work of groups such as Dignitas and Exit. (*Swissinfo.org*, *SPUC*, 2/6)

■*The Telegraph* (UK) published a feature looking at the success of US abstinence programs in reducing the teenage pregnancy rate compared with the failure of the UK’s sex education and morning after pill provision approach. Whereas the US teenage pregnancy rate has decreased by 30% in a decade, the UK remains the teenage pregnancy capital of Europe. The difference was summed up by the comments of an American and a British teenager. The American girl said: “We are taught at school that a boy will respect you if you respect yourself.” The British girl said: “My mum says my generation live the saying that familiarity breeds contempt. She’s right.” (*The Telegraph*, 2/11; *SPUC*, 2/12)

■Romania has released its abortion statistics for 2003, which reveals that abortions still exceed live births. In the first nine months of 2003 alone, 170,000 abortions were committed – 8000 more children were aborted than were born alive in the same period. Romania, a Russian-controlled dictatorship until 1989, saw more than three abortions recorded for each birth in 1990. Romania leads the world, second only to Russia, in its abortion rate. A 2000 report from the World Health Organization revealed that “Russia and Central-Eastern Europe, with roughly 10 percent of the global population, accounts for up to a third of the 30 million to 40 million abortions registered annually around the world.” The abortion rate is horrific in Russia where six out of 10 pregnancies end in abortion. Russian officials have said that the high abortion rate accounts for about 6 million women being infertile (out of 38 million females who are of child-bearing age). Medical authorities consider abortion to be a “major cause” of infertility. (*LifeSiteNews.com*, 2/10)



Life Thoughts in the Church Year

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

April 4 – Palm Sunday

The one who said, “I Myself am He! There is no god besides Me” (Deuteronomy 32:39), “made Himself nothing” (Philippians. 2:7). During this Holy Week, the Holy One shows His love for life and the extent to which He would go for those whose “strength is gone” (Deuteronomy 32:36).

April 11 – The Resurrection of our Lord

“Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous” (Psalm 118:15). The resurrection of our Lord is about victory, not a victory we are striving to attain but a victory already won! Death is a defeated enemy not a friend we seek to solve our problems. Rejoice in the victory! Trust in the Victor! Live in the victory!

April 18 – Second Sunday of Easter

We are to share the victory in which we live. The living Jesus compels us to witness to His resurrection and the new life that it brings (Acts 5:20, John 20:31). Rather than being seen as controversial and divisive, the life issues are opportunities to bring the living Jesus into people’s lives in very real and meaningful ways. These issues should not be avoided but addressed in light of the resurrection.

April 25 - Third Sunday of Easter

Saul, on his way to persecute Christians, ended up proclaiming Christ (Acts 9:1-20). Peter, at the first miraculous catch of fish cried, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man” (Luke 5:8). In the miraculous catch of today’s Gospel, Peter cannot wait to get to Jesus (John 21:1-14). The resurrected Jesus changes the way people think and act. He is the One we proclaim to bring change into people’s lives today.

May 2 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

All Christians, and especially those dealing with the struggles of a chronic illness or terminal disease, take comfort in the promise that some day, “God will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Revelation 7:17). As we await that day, we are strengthened by the promise of our risen Savior, “No one can snatch them out of My hand” (John 10:28). We find hope in life, not death.

May 9 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

“As I have loved you, so you must love one another” (John 13:34). Jesus’ words beg the question, “How have we been loved?” It is unmerited and unconditional love that we have received. Our love for human life is not based upon stage of development, mental or

physical condition, or perceived usefulness. It is based upon God’s love for us in Christ.

May 16 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Abortion, assisted suicide, embryonic stem cell research—these become idols when people turn to them expecting more help than from God. But the good news we have to share and apply is, “Turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them” (Acts 14:15). Our living, creator God can deal with any situation!

May 23 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

The “tree of life” (Revelation 22:14) and the “water of life” (22:17) have to do with eternal life given through Jesus. It is this certain hope of eternal life given to those who have “washed their robes” (Rev. 22:14) that gives perseverance to God’s saints in this life. We do not have to take life into our own hands when we know it is in His.

May 30 – Pentecost

The tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9) is not about the evils of human achievement. It is about the evils of self-reliance—“so that we may make a name for ourselves” (vs. 4). Human achievement is a gift from God. Our ability to isolate stem cells, to identify genes, and to manipulate molecules has great potential and great danger. It is reliance upon God and His truth revealed by His Spirit that enables us to see the difference.

June 6 – Holy Trinity

Rejoicing in suffering (Romans 5:3) does not come from clear thinking. It comes from faith in our Triune God. The Holy Spirit enables us to see the love of God demonstrated in Jesus Christ.

We stand in grace and glory waits. We are assured that God is at work in and through our suffering.

June 13 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

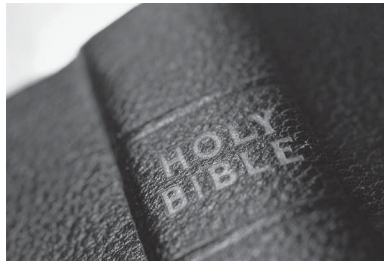
Those who commit sins against life can feel particularly unworthy and therefore unforgivable. But the Gospel is not about our worthiness. It is about recognition of our unworthiness. It is trusting completely in God’s worthiness and the healing He brings in Christ. Recognition of our unworthiness need not lead to despair but to Christ and His mercy (Luke 7:1-10).

June 20 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

The resurrection of the sons of widows attests to the truth of the power of God (1 Kings 17:17-24 and Luke 7:11-17). For Paul, the resurrected Jesus attests to the truth of what he proclaims (Galatians 1:11-12). It is the presence of the risen Christ, not the absence of pain and suffering, that assures us of the truth of God’s promises.

June 27 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Women who have abortions are no different than you and I. We are all capable of great sin as was David (2 Samuel 11:26-12:10) and Peter (Galatians 2:11-14). We can all learn from the humility of the sinful woman in the Pharisee’s house (Luke 7:36-50) and from women who are crushed by the sin of abortion. This is the way we should all kneel before our Savior.





25 Years For Life!

The dream of LFL began in 1976. There were organizational meetings in 1977. In 1978 a name was chosen, a philosophy was adopted, and officers were selected. The official incorporation was April 17, 1979. Lutherans For Life will officially be 25 years old in 2004!

Undoubtedly no one imagined 25 years ago that there would be a need for a 25th anniversary. Surely once God's people understood the atrocity of abortion and the license *Roe v. Wade* gave to this atrocious act there would be a cry on behalf of life so loud that it would drive the purveyors of death back into the shadows of darkness. But the cry was muted by fear and indifference. The darkness became light, and there are those even among God's people who want to let it shine.

For example, the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice says on their website:

"While our members are religiously and theologically diverse, they are unified in the commitment to preserve reproductive choice as a basic part of religious liberty."

Late-term abortionist George Tiller has a chaplain for his abortion clinic. Describing the chaplaincy program, he says on his website: "*Spiritually, abortion is acceptable in ten of the world's religions and in Christianity many denominations affirm and uphold the right of a woman to make the choice of abortion. The program offers individual counseling, group counseling and the celebration of spiritual sacraments such as baptism of the still born fetus and blessings for the aborted fetus.*"

It was hard 25 years ago to imagine LFL being around so long. Now it is hard to imagine not having LFL around to counter this kind of thinking! There is still a need for the **For Life** message of LFL! In light of religious groups that promote abortion as morally and spiritually acceptable and in light of all the other issues that came through the door abortion opened—assisted suicide, euthanasia, post-abortion

trauma, cloning, embryonic stem cell research—there is an even greater need!

We are thankful for what God has accomplished through LFL in the past and for what He has in store for us in the future. This is a spiritual battle, and we need groups like LFL to wield the "sword of the Spirit" so that the hearts and minds of God's people and others will be changed. The **For Life** message of the past 25 years needs to be louder and stronger than ever.

Join us this year in thanking God for LFL. Keep LFL in your prayers and please consider a special 25th anniversary gift to support the much needed, Biblical **For Life** message.

**Put For Life Attitudes Into Action!
Join Lutherans For Life Today!**



Yes! I want to join LFL...

Please select a membership category: (✓)

___ Annual: \$35 \$50 \$75 Other \$ ___ enclosed.
Any amount is welcome!

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

___ Sponsor: I commit to a monthly gift of \$ ____.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone # _____

Chapter Name/# (if applicable) _____

Occupation _____

Congregation _____

Church Body AALC AFLC CLBA ELCA
LCMS Other _____

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

Lutherans Join 2004 “March for Life”

The temperature was warmer than usual and the mood upbeat, according to an organizer for 40 Lutherans who joined 100,000-plus pro-life supporters for the January 22 “March for Life” in Washington, D.C.

This year’s march observed the 31st anniversary of the Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion. Dennis Di Mauro, president of the Northern Virginia chapter of Lutherans For Life, said that temperatures were in the mid-40s—compared with the 20s last year—and the mood of marchers “very upbeat” because of the partial-birth abortion ban that President George W. Bush signed into law November 5.

“Whenever a political change happens for the better, it always energizes the march,” Di Mauro said.

“I want you to know that our administration is vigorously defending this law against those who would seek to overturn it in the courts,” Bush told the marchers in a telephone address often interrupted with applause.

“I also want you to know without your hard work and dedication to the cause of life, these achievements would not have been possible.

“But we all know there is still more to do,” Bush said, adding that earlier in the week, he had proposed doubling federal funding for abstinence-education programs.

“We will continue to support crisis-pregnancy centers, adoption, parental-notification laws and the vital work of faith-based groups,” said Bush, who was in Roswell, New Mexico at the time of the call.

Di Mauro said the LFL delegation came from nine states and that eight marchers had free lodging made available to anyone in the delegation. That morning, most of the LFL marchers attended a worship service at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Falls Church, Virginia, then took the Metro into Washington for the march, after which they gathered for pizza.

“We really want to encourage more people to come next year,” Di Mauro said.

LFL Executive Director Dr. James I. Lamb said the march “says to our elected officials that we’re still here, we’re not going away, and we’re not alone in this.” He said that marchers carried placards with “a variety of messages. Among the most meaningful to me were those that drew attention to the plight of women who have had abortions. This is a message that needs to be heard.”

“But Lutherans For Life’s mission,” Lamb continued, “is to witness to the sanctity of human life based on the Word of God. We gather around that Word and encourage each other to be witnesses to life. It’s God’s Word that will change hearts and lives.” Lamb, who marched with the LFL delegation for the seventh year, delivered the message for the worship service.

He said the theme of his message, “More Than You Can Imagine,” based on Ephesians 3:20, “talks about what God is able to do—more than we can ask or imagine.”

“That power is at work within us,” Lamb said. “We can turn to it when we face the difficult decisions of life and death.”

For information about being part of the LFL delegation in next year’s March for Life in Washington, contact Dennis Di Mauro at (703) 600-5150 or

dennisdimauro@lycos.com.

(LCMS News, 2/2/04)



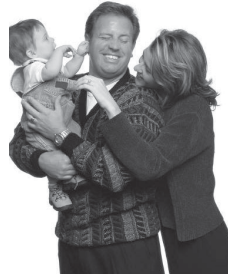
Lutherans gather in Washington D.C. for 2004 March for Life.

Lutherans For Life Council of State Federation Presidents

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Kristin Erickson, North Dakota – Cooperstown
Hank Scheuermann, Ohio – Cleveland
Lynette Auch, South Dakota – Lesterville
Cynthia Chapa, Texas – Azle
Diane Chadwick, Wisconsin – Ixonia

Adoption Resources

LFL is not an adoption agency. However, we recommend the following national adoption resources/agencies. For additional agencies and information please contact LFL.



www.adoption.com
 www.ilovejesus.com/missions/adopt
 www.bethany.org • www.adopt.org

Help Others, Yourself, & LFL



LFL Endowment Fund – The fund receives gifts and bequests and uses the interest accrued from them for the mission and ministry of LFL. Your gifts – large or small – through checks, stocks, bonds, real estate, bequests, insurance, etc., will help LFL continue to share the message that each human life – created by God and redeemed by Jesus Christ – is to be protected! You can make a difference!

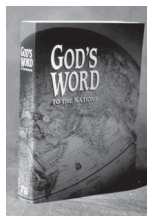
Simply Giving® – Never write another donation check! You won't have to, with the *Simply Giving®* program from Thrivent. Your gift to LFL can be made through electronic funds transfer from your checking or savings account. A free service from Thrivent!



Have you drafted a Will or Living Trust – Estate planning not only helps families – both before and after the death of a loved one – but also can be of help to ministries such as LFL. LFL

can provide free, no obligation, information on how you can accomplish your personal and family goals through trusts, annuities, and other plans.

GOD'S WORD For Life! – This first-of-its-kind publishing endeavor could help save thousands of preborn babies from being aborted; help offer the forgiving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those affected by an abortion decision; and give the pro-life movement a great heart-changing tool. *Look for an exciting update on this project in the next LifeDate!*



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

Frank Becker by Hugo & Muriel Armbricht, Joe & Irene Armbricht; **Ronald Bledsoe** by Allan & Donna Benson; **Arthur Bohmann** by Bethine Klinker; **Matt Burton** by Rev. Bruce & Deb Lakamp; **Rhoda Canion** by Erno & Dorothy Bierman, Kathryn & Larry Goodwin; **Dee's sister "Cookie"** by Allan & Donna Benson; **Bill Cross** by Gordon & Ellen Gunderson; **Dorothy Davis** by Dr. Frank & Helen Williams; **Winifred Dittmer** by Dr. Frank & Helen Williams; **Mrs. Arthur (Rhoda) Fiegel** by Dr. Frank & Helen Williams; **Jessica Gardner** by Kate & Daryl Moore; **Martha & Julius Gilge** by Bernice & Conrad Roder; **Emma Glasnapp** by Myron, Roger, Gail & their families; **Olga Greunke** by Ralph & Ruth Wehmeyer; **Kenneth Herrholz** by Mrs. M. Eleanor Schwalm; **Bob Hiller** by Jim & RoxAnne Lamb; **Ruth Idt** by Doug & Lynette Auch; **Ken Jorgensen** by Ron & Carol Jochimsen; **Neva Kasischke** by Dorothy Edler; **Joanne Lawm** by Jim & RoxAnne Lamb; **Barbara Linse** by Dr. Jean Garton, Kent & Jean Heise, Mr & Mrs. Jack Maskus; **Bob Lippman** by Dorothy Edler; **Esther Luikens** by Doug & Lynette Auch; **Terry Maynard** by Carolyn Olson; **Joel Mueller** by Stevie Herndon, Ralph & Ruth Wehmeyer; **Leona Neddermeyer** by St. John Lutheran Church, Charter Oak, IA; **Glen Nerness** by Vic & Geri Schulz; **Carl Rinderknecht** by Alvin & Elsie Polk; **L. Bill Robertson** by Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Johnson; **Mary & Conrad Roder** by Bernice & Conrad Roder; **Merle Saver** by Rev. William & Elaine Uffenbeck; **Rudolf Schave** by Cynthia Chapa; **Wilma Simon** by Ruth S. Tracy; **Susan Simons** by Dr. Ray & Betty Malzahn; **Dr. Charles Tegeler** by Jay & Jeanne Mackay; **The Unborn** by John & Kathy Seutter; **Elmer Wille** by Donna & Allan Benson

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

Children and Grandchildren by Rev Mark & Marci Baldwin; **Grandchildren** (Michael, Christopher, Corey, Katie, Josh, Malachi and Matthias) by Jay & Jeanne Mackay; **Rev. Bruce & Deb Lakamp** by Martin & Verda Burke, Bob & Barb Herrstrom; **Nicole Owens** (great-niece) by Fred & Mary Aufderheide; **Pam Roach** by Ruth Proft Dannehl; **Olivia Sahr** (baptism) by Dr. Frank & Mrs. Helen Williams; **Pastor Stadelman & family** by Lou & Miriam Kuhlmann; **Albert & Olga Toedter** by Jeanne Leder; **Ellen Wells** (80th birthday) by Howard & Marjorie MacDougall

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

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

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

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Lutherans For Life

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"What God intended marriage to be in the beginning, He still intends marriage to be."

The Goodness of Marriage
by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb