

# LifeDate

Spring 2008

A quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life



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The Legacy of "Choice"



**Lutherans For Life**



**Lutherans For  
Life's mission  
is to witness  
to the sanctity  
of human  
life, through  
education,  
based on the  
Word of God.**

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## Why, God?



by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

The question came up in a Bible study I led on the value of human life. “Why does God allow abortion to continue?” I had heard it before. I had asked it before. There is no answer. We do not know. We are not in a position to counsel God. (Romans 11:34)

What *do* we know?

We know God gives and sustains life. We know He is not the author of evil and that sin and death came from Satan’s lies and mankind’s disobedience. We know He sent His Son to redeem life from sin and evil. We know He wants all to be saved through faith in Jesus Christ. We know He commands us not to murder, and that He abhors injustice especially when it involves the weak and vulnerable.



We also know that God works through means. He works through His Word and Sacraments to call people dead in sin and make them alive in Christ. He makes those not His people to be His people, and He works through His people to spread His Word and accomplish His will on earth.

Why does abortion continue? I wonder if there is some insight in this verse, **“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land”** (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Now I know this verse can be, and has been, misused. It is not saying, “If the people

of this country would just shape up then maybe God would stop some of the horrible things that go on.” The verse isn’t about the people of this country. It’s about people called by His name. This verse is not about shaping up but about “shaping down.” It’s about God’s people humbling themselves before Him, seeking His “face,” His merciful presence. It’s a good Lenten verse for it speaks of confession and absolution.

Is there a need for such confession and absolution by God’s people when it comes to the sanctity of human life? Yes. There are those “called by His name” who openly promote the slaughter of abortion. There are those “called by His name” who see abortion’s evil, but fail to call it so. There are those “called by His

name” who have been entrusted with the most powerful and positive message for life on the planet and fail to apply it to these issues of life and death.

Think what might happen if we, who are

“called by His name,” would boldly and lovingly proclaim His truth about life, if we would call sins against life “sins,” if we would let sinners against life hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ spoken directly to their broken hearts, if we would point people who are suffering to our God who suffered and is still at work in suffering. I believe God would be at work in His people. I believe God would be at work through His people. And maybe, when it comes to the sanctity of human life, there would be healing in our land.

So I would suggest the question on our lips this Lenten season not be, “Why does God allow abortions?” but “Why do we?”

## LFL at the 2008 March for Life

Judging from comments and the level of enthusiasm of Lutherans who joined tens of thousands at this year's March for Life, January 22, in Washington D.C., their resolve to end abortion may be buoyed by reports of abortion declines in recent years. But they also say their quest is far from over, as they continue praying that God changes more hearts and minds, especially those of young people who face such decisions as ending unwanted pregnancies.

"There has been slow and incremental progress in the pro-life movement as a whole," said Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb after the march. "The pro-life movement with its steady, persistent message has been effective."

The March for Life marks the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion. The 2008 LFL delegation included 50 marchers, who along with 50-some others started the day with a worship service at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Virginia, for which Lamb delivered the sermon.

"Sometimes it seems like death wins," Lamb told those worshipers, citing examples of "society point[ing] the pregnant teenager to death through abortion . . . the chronically ill to death through embryonic stem-cell research . . . those with severe disabilities to death through euthanasia or assisted suicide . . . as something good that will help."

"Not true," Lamb said. "Life wins! . . . Jesus defeated our enemy—death . . . and gives us that victory . . . The victorious message that life wins is tailor-made for addressing the life issues as they affect God's people."

Dennis Di Mauro, president of LFL's

Northern Virginia chapter and coordinator for the organization's march-related activities, said the LFL march delegation this year came from at least nine states, and represented a range of ages, including some 30 who are college-age or younger.

"It is something of a relief to be in a place where you can 'come out' as pro-life without apology," Rev. Matthew M. Hummel, an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) pastor from Bellmore, Delaware, wrote in an e-mail after he, his wife, and their two children marched with this year's LFL delegation.

Among those young pro-lifers at the march were groups from two Lutheran schools: Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW) at Mequon, and Lutheran High School (LHS) of Saint Charles County at Saint Peters, Missouri.

Alex Post, a leader with the Mequon group, said he considers it "especially important for men . . . to be active in pro-life work."

"I believe that men have a great responsibility in terms of relationships," Post said. "God's Word tells us that men are responsible for being godly leaders."

Janice Nihill, a 17-year-old senior and a leader in the student pro-life group at LHS, said, "Above all things, my faith motivates me to do as much as I can and strive to do more in the pro-life movement. As a child of God, I know a truth that is stronger than anything the world can throw at me—the power of eternal life through Christ. I cannot, because of who I am as a child of God, keep silent as my own generation is denied the chance to exist."

(Joe Isenhower Jr., *LCMS News*, 1/31/08. Photo provided by Rev. Kristian Bjornstad.)



## Women Victimized by Abortion Say 35 Years is Enough Pain and Agony

Women victimized by abortion say 35 years is enough and they don't want their female friends and family to be subjected to the same agony they faced after an abortion.

"It is a sad day as America reflects on the tragic loss of 50 million lives lost to abortion," said Caron Strong, who heads the Women's Council on Abortion for the Trinity Legal Center.

Strong, a long-time advocate for post-abortive women who had four abortions in her younger years, told LifeNews.com, "There is much untold grief and heartache in the lives of the mothers, fathers, and siblings who have lost these children to abortion."

"We will never know the wonderful impact these precious lives may have had. May God forgive us," she said.



Joyce Zounis, who had seven abortions beginning at age 15, says, "I was wrong, and so was the Supreme Court."

"I grieve for my children lost to abortion, and I grieve for the lost heritage of their children," she told LifeNews.com.

Both women say they are looking to the day when women and babies are protected from the harm of abortion. They point to the price women pay when they choose abortion: grief, fear, shame, physical and emotional problems, broken relationships and marriages, and destructive behaviors.

(LifeNews.com, 1/23/08)

## Pro-Life Advocates: Roe v. Wade Support Weak as Abortion Case Reaches 35 Years

As the United States marked 35 years of legalized abortions, leading pro-life advocates say support for the infamous Supreme Court case is weak. They say they see the day coming that the high court reverses the decision and allows states to, once again, provide legal protection for unborn children.

Wendy Wright, the president of Concerned Women for America, says those Americans who say they support Roe normally do so because of a lack of knowledge about the details of the abortion decision and its companion case *Doe v. Bolton*.

"The assumption that most people support Roe is not only flawed but flat out wrong. When people learn the details of Roe, their support declines," she told LifeNews.com.

Nationally syndicated columnist Cal Thomas notes that the tide in favor of abortion has turned and that pro-life groups now have the upper hand.

"In recent years there have been signs that things may be—if not turning around—then moderating . . . This is due, I believe, to the unrelenting commitment of the pro-life movement through pregnancy help centers, information by Internet, marches, and what appears to be a growing pro-life consensus among many women," Thomas adds.

(LifeNews.com, 1/21/08)



Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute.

## Life Wins!



by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

I know the constant pressure and, oftentimes, frustration of wanting to be part of a winning team. I'm a Minnesota Vikings fan! I can hope, but nothing guarantees that by choosing the Vikings I'll be supporting a winning team.

However, when you choose life, you are on a winning team. It's guaranteed, because **life wins!**

Jesus Christ defeated death and He *gives* us the victory! The Easter season is a great time to be reminded of that. It's important to be reminded of that. We experience frustration when death appears the victor.

### Death Wins?

Death seems to be climbing to ever-higher levels in our society. We have moved way beyond seeing death as the wages of sin and a reminder of the wrath of God. Death has moved from being unnatural to being natural, from being our enemy to being our friend, from something bad to something good, from something cold to something compassionate. Death has moved from something foreign to God's design to our god, who we use according to our own design.

Martin Luther says in the Large Catechism under the First Article, "On the contrary, does your heart cling to something else, from which it hopes to receive more good and help than from God, and does it flee not to him but from him when things go wrong? Then you have an idol, another god." (*The Book of Concord*

Theodore G. Tappert, ed. Fortress Press, 1959, p. 368.) Death has become our society's god who is turned to for "good and help."

Society points the pregnant teenager to death through abortion as something good that will help. Society points the chronically ill to death through embryonic stem cell research as something good that will help. Society points those with severe disabilities to death through euthanasia or assisted suicide as something good that will help.

Jean Garton writes in *Who Broke the Baby*, "When we choose to offer death as an alternative to suffering, the list of those who qualify under 'the new ethic' expands greatly." We've seen the expansion. Death becomes the solution of choice for dealing with life's difficulties.



Sometimes it seems like death wins.

Not true.

### Life Wins!

It's guaranteed. Jesus defeated our enemy death—"swallowed" it up—and He gives us that victory. We live in

that victory. God gives courage and hope from that victory. As Paul goes on to say,

**"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."**

(1 Corinthians 15:58)

This victory is both the context and the content of our *For Life* message. We live in victory and we share a message of victory. Christians have the most powerful and positive *For Life* message in the universe! The victorious message that "Life Wins!" is tailor-made for addressing the life issues as they affect God's people.

## Life Wins and the Life Issues

“Life wins!” This message transforms us and gives us “good and help” so we can make God-pleasing decisions and avoid the “death traps” Satan constantly places before us. It points to a God who gives new life and says, **“You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body”** (1 Corinthians 6:19b-20).

“Life wins!” This message offers true “good and help” for those in a crisis pregnancy. It points to a God who demonstrated the value He gives to life in the womb when He entered a womb. It points to a God who forgives mistakes and says, “Go, and from now on sin no more.”

“Life wins!” This message brings “good and help” to women and men who have made an abortion decision. It points to a God who demonstrated His love for all sinners when He nailed His Son to a cross, cursed and forsook Him in the sinner’s stead. It points to a God who paid the full price for forgiveness of sins and says **“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”** (Romans 8:1a).

“Life wins!” This message speaks powerfully of “good and help” to those experiencing the suffering of devastating disease or severe disability. It points to a God who knows about suffering. It points to a God who gives meaning and purpose to every life in every circumstance and says, **“I know the plans I have for you”** (Jeremiah 29:11a).

“Life wins!” We live in this message. We strive to help fellow Christians connect this message to the life issues. This message compels us to address these issues in our society. Only this message can ultimately turn people away from the god of death and restore value and dignity to life.

I certainly invite all of you to join me in choosing to support the Minnesota Vikings, but no guarantees! Choose life, however, and I guarantee you are on the winning team. Because . . . **Life Wins!**



## The Miracle of the Incarnation

– The path to the cross did not begin in Bethlehem but in Nazareth! Sunday, March 23 is a most appropriate time to celebrate the Incarnation. (On the church year calendar, March 25 is The Annunciation of Our Lord.)

God became man at Jesus’ conception in Mary. Since our beginnings were sinful (Psalm 51:5), Jesus had to take our place from that very moment. Part of the redemptive process was for Jesus to pass through all stages of our development. What powerful implications for the value of human life from the very beginning! Jesus’ divinity and humanity at the moment of conception attest to our humanity from that moment.

To help observe the Annunciation of our Lord—and to teach the great value God in Christ places on all human life—Lutherans For Life offers—FREE OF CHARGE—these resources:



*Bulletin Insert:*

### The Miracle of the Annunciation

*Item 1106BI.* To read the complete insert text and to order go to: [www.lutheransforlife.org/annunciation.htm](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/annunciation.htm)

*Also available on the web site:*

Sample Sermon: **Pregnant with God**, based on Luke 1:26-38, and a Worship Service Format.

## Dad: A Girl's First Hero (Part One)

by Linda D. Bartlett



All eyes turn toward the bride and her father who make their way down the aisle. His hand is wrapped protectively around his daughter's hand as he leads her forward. With love in her eyes, the bride turns her gaze from her dad to a beaming young man. The father lifts his daughter's veil, kisses her cheek, then takes her hand and places it in the hand of her soon-to-be-husband.

Do we really know the significance of what's taking place? Do we know that the father is his daughter's protector and "hero"? Do we know that, in this wedding ceremony, the father is literally placing his daughter into the loving protection of her husband? Do we know that the bridal veil symbolizes modesty and that, by lifting the veil of his daughter, the father is revealing his daughter's virtue and entrusting it to the man who has promised to be her faithful husband?

But, what if there is no father? What if there is no father-figure—a grandfather, uncle, or older brother—who has provided the veil of protective covering over a young woman? What if there is no father or father role model who has provided appropriate affection while guarding her virtue?

Far too many of these young girls long for affection, beg for attention, and, yes, look for love in all the wrong places.

Dr. Meg Meeker, author of *Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters: 10 Secrets Every Father Should Know* (Regnery Publishing), is

convinced that the fundamental relationship between a girl and her dad can affect all areas of her life. In fact, says Dr. Meeker, who knows how truly vulnerable young women are in today's culture, the way a father treats his daughter can determine how she will relate to men during the remainder of her life. Young women need the covering of strong, involved dads.

Here are excerpts from an interview Carrie Gress did recently with Dr. Meeker, with added commentary of my own.

**Gress:** A father is a daughter's best ally seems to be the consensus of your book . . .

[W]hat is the unique offering of a father to a daughter that a mother cannot offer, especially in her relationship to God?

**Meeker:** [A] father is a daughter's great ally, which today is not only overlooked, but is directly attacked. If you look at the typical sitcom, the father is portrayed as someone who is comical, humorous and just plain dumb, and as though he has something to learn from his daughter.

Research shows that a father's influence builds up self-esteem, helps his daughter to avoid sex, drugs, alcohol, and stay in college . . . a father carries an authority in his daughter's eyes. This authority is not ascribed to the mother, not that she is not important, but a father's influence is different.

When a girl is little, her dad is her primary male love relationship. When he gives her something as a man, she learns lessons about men, setting a template in those early years on her heart about what to expect, to think, to feel, and know about men from there on out, affecting even her relationship to God, because Christ is a man.





**Bartlett:** Our gracious and loving God is also our Heavenly Father! After sin entered the world, He provided the protective covering of patriarchy. A father, as the head of the family, is not to “lord over” wife and family. Instead, with Jesus as his model, a father can seek to guard his family by serving them unselfishly, doing battle against evil, and leading to a future of hope.

A modern girl is at risk emotionally, physically, and psychologically by the influences of an off-track feminist movement, sex education beginning at an early age, an emphasis on being “sexy,” so-called “reproductive” rights, and a welfare state that discourages the commitment of marriage.

Even in a culture that has turned its back on God and, thus, lost appreciation for patriarchy, exciting opportunities exist. A father can squelch the ridiculous notion that “equal” means “being the same” by helping a daughter understand the created, yet complimentary differences between male and female. A father can explain to his daughter how men think and why modesty in dress and behavior is a good thing. A father’s interest and appropriate affection can help a daughter grow confidence and take the time to discern agape love from worldly love.

**Gress:** What are the specific characteristics of a dad that help daughters in their development?

**Meeker:** One of the big ones is a sense of protectiveness. It is intuitive in a dad’s heart to protect and guard a daughter. Our culture, however, has been training men not to do that because gender neutrality has become such a big deal.

The reason this is very important is because, particularly in the area of sexuality, dad has an enormous role. Girls are under sexual siege, with aggressive marketing, especially in clothing, from the age of 6 on. If a father, feeling protective, says, “I don’t want my daughter going to school in a jog bra,” and mom says, “No, this is the way girls dress,” a

father needs to trust his judgment. Sometimes his intuition is better on this one.

Another is that dads in general tend to be very pragmatic and solution-oriented, discovering first what the problem is, and then how to get to the solution. Sometimes women are insulted, because we think differently, but this difference is wonderful. A man says, “Now, what’s the problem? What can we do?” This pragmatism can serve a daughter well in teen years.

For example, perhaps a boyfriend has broken up with her. A girl will feel sad, think she is too fat, too stupid—all kinds of things get added to the frustration in her own mind. But dad compartmentalizes, “What’s the problem? What can we do to solve it? Just because he broke up with you, doesn’t mean all these other things are true.”

However, the most important thing a father can do is live a life of integrity—living truthfully. A daughter, within 15 seconds, can tell if her father is in a bad mood, good mood, telling the truth or not, etc. Those fathers who don’t live truthfully do a great disservice because a daughter doesn’t believe in him, doesn’t trust him. Dads think they need to earn heroism, but they really don’t. The role of a hero is just given to him until proven otherwise. Most dads don’t know this.

**Bartlett:** Dads don’t realize they are heroes because this concept has either never been passed on to them by their own father, or they have ignored or forgotten God’s Word that mightily reminds them of their powerful role. Either way, they are left ill-equipped to battle the culture that beats up on them and tries to destroy their confidence. There is a Man, however, who forgives and then faithfully encourages every human father to try—over and over again, to be the man God designed him to be. That Man is Jesus Christ.

*(Part Two of this article is set to appear in the summer 2008 edition of LifeDate. Interview excerpts from Zenit.org, 2/25/07. Used by permission.)*

## Life Wins at the Theater

by Karen L. Frohwein  
Director of Development



Movies have had a powerful influence on the abortion debate. Did you know that the 1963 movie *Love with the Proper Stranger* has a “back alley” abortion scene? Movies like *Dirty Dancing* (1987), *The Cider House Rules* (1999), and *Vera Drake* (2004) have promoted death as a compassionate solution for an unplanned pregnancy.

In the past year, a positive trend has appeared in movie theaters. There appears to be an acknowledgement of the sanctity of pre-born life coming across in films with broad public appeal. Four films stand out: *Knocked Up*, *Waitress*, *Juno*, and *Bella*. Both the movie *Juno* and the lead actress, Ellen Page, were nominated for academy awards.

It’s interesting to note that the pro-death crowd is none too happy about these films. There are two main themes that seem most disturbing to them. First, in each film abortion is mentioned, but rather quickly discounted. Women and men chose to put aside their own aspirations in order to carry a child to term.

Second, three of the films especially dispel the notion that becoming pregnant is a complete surprise. The consequence of a drunken one-night stand, a teen’s first time, and married sex can be a child—a person to be cared for, not an accident to be taken care of. (Unfortunately, none of the films present a message of abstinence.)

I think it is important to make a distinction between optimism about the trend of pro-life messages presented in film and giving blanket approval to these particular films because they have been tagged “pro-life.” To that end, here’s a quick rundown of the pros and cons of the four movies mentioned to help you discern their value to the Christian moviegoer.

**Knocked Up** (Rated R)

**Plot line:** For fun-loving party animal Ben Stone, the last thing he ever expected was for his one night stand, Alison, to show up on his doorstep eight weeks later to tell him she’s pregnant.

**Pros:** Very few, except for the fact that abortion is quickly discarded as an option. In fact, when it is mentioned to the father by one of his friends, all the men express disgust at the idea.

**Cons:** The language is terrible, there is rampant alcohol and drug abuse, unwed pregnancy is accepted and promoted.

**Bottom line:** Skip this movie! But be aware that many young people have seen it and have been positively influenced by its pro-life message.

**Waitress** (Rated PG-13 for sexual content, language, and thematic elements.)

**Plot line:** Jenna is an unhappily married waitress who hopes to win a pie-baking contest so she’ll have enough cash to leave her abusive husband. She finds herself pregnant, which throws her plans awry.

**Pros:** This is a very quirky film about love and friendship. Since most films focus on unmarried women facing an unexpected pregnancy, this film is unique in presenting a married woman as the central character. (One of the joys for me was watching Andy Griffith in the role of the cantankerous diner customer, Old Joe.)

**Cons:** This is a movie for adults. Most of the movie deals with adultery in a very reckless way. There is some redemption in the end, but I had a hard time getting past the use of extramarital affairs as a plot device.

**Bottom line:** Use caution. I found this movie to be thought-provoking, but there are definitely mixed messages presented.

**Juno** (Rated PG-13 for mature thematic material, sexual content, and language)

**Plot line:** Faced with an unplanned pregnancy, an offbeat young woman (Juno) makes an unusual decision regarding her unborn child.

**Pros:** Strongly portrays adoption as a life-affirming choice and abortion as the choice of death. Juno's parents are shocked by her pregnancy, but then supportive. The reactions of students at her school vary in a realistic way. While there is humor in the movie, the pregnancy is always presented as a serious matter.

**Cons:** Some may find the use of humor and the teen vernacular troublesome. Teen sex is portrayed as a normal occurrence. The adoptive parents have their own struggles—somewhat weakening the positive message of adoption.

**Bottom line:** Probably the most realistic portrayal of a teen pregnancy I've seen. If you have teens attending movies of their choice, encourage them to see *Juno* and see it yourself. There are endless opportunities for discussion.

**Bella** (Rated PG-13 for thematic elements and brief disturbing images.)

**Plot line:** Bella is a true love story about how one day in New York City changed three people forever.

**Pros:** This is an intentional pro-life movie and the care taken by the writers and actors shines. It features a positive portrayal of family, faith, and friendship. Adoption is also represented as a favorable choice.

**Cons:** The story is told with flashbacks and there are a few subtitles, which some might find confusing.

**Bottom line:** Very powerful movie. If you didn't see it in the theater, watch for it on DVD (set for release on May 6).

(Movie plot lines adapted from Internet Movie Data Base, [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com).)



## Choosing Life

– Meg stands on the street corner, frozen in indecision. She never thought she'd consider abortion, but if she has this baby, her hopes and dreams for

the future will be gone. And the shame . . . Though it's unthinkable, she feels she has no other choice. *Choosing Life* deals with the subject of abortion with great sensitivity, focusing on the biblical foundation for the sanctity of life. As Meg struggles to decide whether to abort her baby, she finds guidance in God's Word and in the advice of a pregnancy counselor who has been there before. This touching, life-affirming, and award-winning film has been used in caring pregnancy centers as an important tool in counseling women considering abortion. *Choosing Life* includes a Bible study guide from Lutherans For Life  
Item 100AV. \$15.00 ea.



**I Knew You,** a 9" x 12" print of Jesus with a baby by Shannon Wirrenga, features the

Bible verse Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. Before you were born I set you apart." Recently, a woman called to tell us that this print helped her get through two miscarriages—and gives her hope. She now is the mother of a precious 8-year-old autistic child. She is also sharing the print with her unmarried, pregnant, teenage niece who is no longer planning to abort. Item 1606. \$8.00 ea.

Ahh . . .

## Sweet, Sweet Life!

by Linda D. Bartlett



It was to be a wonderful life—designed perfectly. The star players were intimately created for their key roles—man for his and woman for hers. The harmony between man, woman, and their Creator God would be forever enjoyed. **Ahhh . . . sweet, sweet life!**

There was a way that this sweet life could continue. God shared that wisdom with the man, saying, **“You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die”** (Genesis 2:16 NIV). Fair, and with the desire to lovingly protect, God gave to man the instruction *for* life and the warning *away* from death. Later, the Creator lovingly shaped woman and brought her to man. Ah, sweet life! Now all was very good! The man could cover his beloved “rib” with the Word of Life and pass its instructions and warnings on to their children and children’s children. What a wonderful sweet, sweet life!

Not so sweet, however, to one who watched from the darkness. The very idea of life was sour grapes in the mouth of Satan. God’s love for the human beings—creatures made in His own image, no less—was despicable. The very thought of more life—more little creatures coming into a loving relationship with the Almighty God—made Satan nauseous. So, into a perfect garden crept life’s one great enemy: **DEATH.**

As a “thief,” Satan was bound to “steal, kill, and destroy.” (John 10:10) He spied an opportunity and, ignoring the created order, slithered not to the defender, but the bearer of life. He engaged the woman with a single question, “Did God really say . . . ?” The woman, perhaps flattered to be placed in a role of leadership, sinned by speaking for God. Turning to the man, she became his temptress.

Life, oh, sweet life! Would man choose to guard it? He had been given a Sword to protect the bearer of life and generations of life to come! But, in failing to use this Sword—the very Word of God, man left his “rib” unprotected and generations of life at risk.

There, under a tree, was the first battle for life. Man and woman, vulnerable without their Sword, were dealt a fatal blow. Death had come to steal away the sweetness of life—but not life itself.

To be sure, death stung, but life continues. Sweet? No! Far from it. God told woman there would be pain in bringing new life into the world. God told man that life would be hard.

Yet, life wins! Generations of life prove it!

Over and over again, throughout the Old Testament, we read the words: “Beget!” “Descendants!” “Families!” “Genealogies!” “Generations!” These are words of life! God’s hands have not stopped creating! Each new human life bears witness of His amazing and faithful love—even for fallen, sinful creatures. Life continues! Why?

Because there was another tree. A tree not in a perfect garden teeming with sweet life, but in a sinful world on a hill named Golgotha



where a Man was brought to die. It was from that tree—a Cross—that Jesus Christ, both Man and Son of God, engaged the “thief” in one last battle for life—and won the victory! He rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, and promised to come again—this time to restore the sweet, sweet life.

We await His coming. And, while we wait, we live! Words like “beget,” “descendants,” and “genealogies” prove that life goes on! The enemy strikes at life; he steals, kills, and destroys, but he cannot stop the Creator’s hands from creating. Life—in the womb or out—is dealt constant blows by the enemy, but eyes focused on the promise of sweet life see victory.

Satan desired woman to be the mother of death, but God inspired Adam to name his wife Eve, which means “mother of all the living.” (Genesis 3:20 NIV) Countless “begets,” “descendants,” and “clans” later, “generations” give evidence of God’s amazing love for life! Our bodies may feel the sting of death but, in Jesus, our souls claim the victory of sweet life!

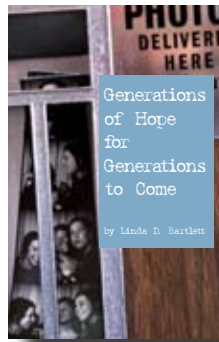
“Father.” “Mother.” “Children.” “Genealogies” of life! Death stings, but it has not conquered.

Thanks be to God! His hands have not stopped creating! His love is still amazing! And His promise of sweet, sweet life is new everyday in Jesus! The thief comes to steal and kill and destroy, but Jesus says, **“I have come that [you] may have life, and have it to the full”** (John 10:10 NIV).

Jesus is victorious!

***Abh . . . the promise of sweet, sweet life is ours!***

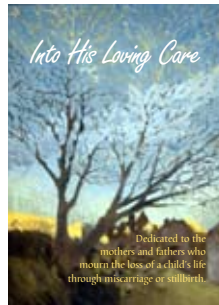
*Linda Bartlett, former president of Lutherans For Life, is the founder of Titus 2 for Life, a mentoring ministry that encourages Biblical manhood and womanhood in today’s culture. Young Titus, living in a pagan culture, was in need of a model that would contrast the world’s ideas and effect positive change for generations to come. That model is found in Titus 2. For more information on Titus 2 day, weekend, or training retreats, visit [www.titus2-4life.org](http://www.titus2-4life.org) or e-mail [lindabartlett@mchsi.com](mailto:lindabartlett@mchsi.com).*



## **Generations of Hope for Generations to Come,**

by Linda Bartlett, can serve as a tool to help build a bridge between generations, an encouragement for LFL leaders, a motivation for parents

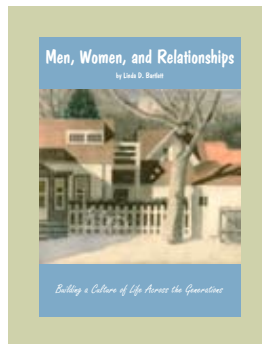
in a new century, a promise to the faithful, and a reason to take heart! We are called to pass on the truth of what God has done in our lives. God brings order out of the chaos with His Word. Jesus is the Word! Because of Jesus, people change, and changed people change the culture in which they live! Booklet. Item 906B. **\$2.00 ea.**



## **Into His Loving Care**

is a unique, full color, devotional booklet, by Linda D. Bartlett, dedicated to all the mothers and fathers who mourn the loss of a child’s life through miscarriage or stillbirth.

Booklet. Item 902B. **\$2.00 ea.**



## **Men, Women, and Relationships (Building a Culture of Life Across the Generations)**

by Linda D. Bartlett asks, “How does God’s view of men, women, and

relationships differ from the world? What are the consequences of our choices? What hope is there in Jesus? Bible study with 12 lessons, leader’s guide, and reproducible student pages. Item 901BS. **\$10.00 ea.**

## The Basics: Stem Cell Research

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb



*(This article is an adaptation of the brochure “Stem Cell Research: Understanding the Basics.” The brochure has helpful full-color diagrams and is an excellent resource to use in conjunction with “Stem Cell Research and Cloning 101: A Primer” DVD. See page 15.)*

To understand how God’s Word applies to the controversial issue of embryonic stem cell research (ESCR), a basic understanding of the biology involved is necessary first:

- At the moment of conception, a new and unique human organism is formed (you!).
- You are called an embryo from this point until the 8<sup>th</sup> week.<sup>1</sup>
- After 4-5 days of development, you are also referred to as a blastocyst. You consist of a single layer of cells forming a hollow sphere with a mass of cells inside the sphere toward the top.
- The single layer of cells on the outside of the sphere will eventually form your placenta and umbilical cord.

The mass of cells inside the sphere are referred to as *stem cells*. All of the rest of you will “stem” from these cells. They will form your heart, liver, brain, pancreas, skin, bones, etc. At this point, however, these cells have not “decided” what to become. Each has the potential to become any kind of cell of the body.

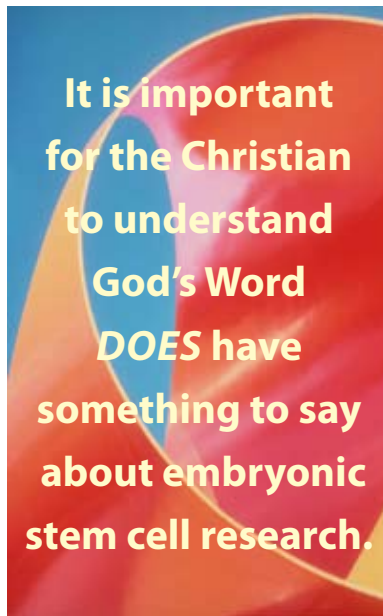
That is what makes these embryonic stem

cells so attractive to researchers. For example, if they could become brain cells, they could be used to treat people with brain diseases like Parkinson’s disease. If they could become pancreas cells, they could be used to treat people with diabetes.

**There is a problem, however.** The blastocyst is destroyed when the stems cells are taken. More precisely, a tiny, unique human being is destroyed when embryonic stem cells are obtained.

### When Does Life Begin?

Let’s see what the embryologists say:



“Zygote: This cell results from the union of an oocyte and a sperm. **A zygote is the beginning of a new human being (i.e. an embryo).**”<sup>2</sup> (Emphasis added.)

“It is the consensus of Nomina Embryologica, an international board that determines the correct terminology to be used in human embryology textbooks, that **human life begins at conception.**”<sup>3</sup>

It is then an established biological fact that at the moment of conception it is not a potential human being, but a unique human being with potential.

The testimony of the Scripture affirms this fact, and that life is a gift from God. **“Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward”** (Psalm 127:3 KJV). By definition, an inheritance is a gift whose recipients are dictated solely by the giver. **“Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me”** (Psalm 51:5 NIV). Since we are sinful from the moment of conception, then we must be human beings at the moment of conception.

These biological and biblical facts of the beginning of life hold true whether that conception takes place in a fallopian tube or in a petri dish. An embryo is a human life whether it is residing in a womb or is in frozen storage or is the result of cloning. Therefore, we must oppose stem cell research on **embryonic stem cells** because it necessarily involves the intentional destruction of a human being and violates the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment.

In his explanation of the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment, Martin Luther writes, “We should fear and love God that we may not hurt nor harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need.” ESCR also violates the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment in terms of not “helping and befriending.” Since life begins at conception, then he or she is our neighbor from that moment. We are to love our neighbor as ourselves. We are to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.

### Other Sources of Stem Cells

Christians do not have to oppose all forms of stem cell research, however. Stem cells are found in bone marrow, blood, the brain, the spinal cord, skeletal muscle, the skin, fat cells, the liver, the pancreas, and umbilical cord blood and placenta. Since obtaining adult stem cells does not involve the destruction of human life, we may support and encourage adult stem cell research.

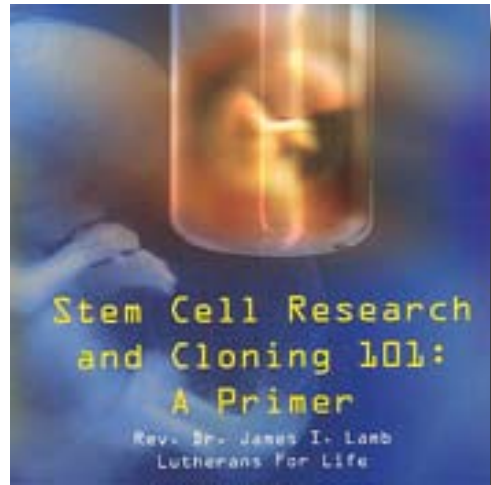
Advances in biotechnology can be seen as gifts from God. As with all gifts, however, we can use them in ways God did not intend. God does not intend that we destroy tiny human beings in order to obtain their stem cells for research. Other sources are available! These we may and should pursue for the betterment of God’s wonderful gift of life.

<sup>1</sup> Keith L. Moore and T.V.N. Persaud, *The Developing Human* (Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Co. 1998), p. 2.

<sup>2</sup> Moore and Persaud, p. 2.

<sup>3</sup> Diane N. Irving, *When Do Human Beings Begin?* “Scientific” Myths and Scientific Facts (International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy 1999) 19:3/4:22-47.

## DVD—BACK IN STOCK!

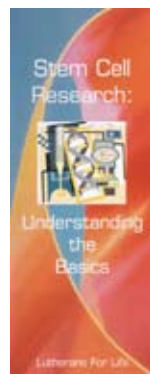


**Stem Cell Research and Cloning 101: A Primer** is hosted by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb. He says, “This presentation is not going to be complicated and hard to understand. I will be presenting the basics of stem cell research and cloning . . . I am not a scientist or an expert in these areas so I cannot make it complicated . . . Once we understand the basic biology involved, we will be able to apply God’s Word to these technologies—and God’s Word is where we want to begin.” (37 minutes)

*Item 1001AV. FREE.* (One DVD per order.)

(A free “Discussion Question Guide for Stem Research and Cloning 101: A Primer” is available through the LFL web site, see “Catalog,” then “Bioethics.”)

## Best-Selling Brochures . . .



*Understand the Basics*

**Stem Cell**  
*Item 1000T.*

**Cloning**  
*Item 1001T.*

**\$0.25 ea.**

**The Brazilian National Health Conference has rejected the legalization of abortion.**

At least 70 percent of delegates voted against the proposal. Eight years ago, the conference recommended the decriminalization of abortion, and the reversal is attributed to the growing pro-life movement which has the support of 60 percent of the population.

*(LifeSiteNews.com, 11/20; SPUC, 11/21)*

**Members of the Portuguese Medical Association are circulating an internet petition urging the association's leadership to maintain its anti-abortion ethical code.**

In 2007, the government legalized abortion-on-demand during the first trimester, and is now putting pressure on the nation's doctors to change their code of ethics. The official spokesman for the association has repeatedly denounced the government's threats and has refused to capitulate. *(LifeSiteNews.com; 11/28; SPUC, 12/4)*

**A national television network in Spain has shown footage of late-term abortions.**

The abortions, performed at 21 weeks of gestation, were filmed by an undercover journalist for Intereconomia TV posing as a doctor looking for work at the clinic in Madrid. The owner of the clinic, which is a member of the Association of Accredited Clinics for the Interruption of Pregnancy, acknowledged to the reporter that many of the abortions done were of dubious legality, but that clinic staff would always certify that there were legal grounds. Commentary to the program drew attention to the humanity of the unborn.

*(LifeSiteNew.com, 12/14; SPUC, 12/14)*

**The first umbilical tissue bank in India is due to open by the end of March.**

It aims to collect at least 40,000 units of stem cells from umbilical cord blood in five years.

*(The Hindu, 1/4; SPUC, 1/7)*

**The United Kingdom fertility regulator has approved the creation of human-animal hybrid embryos for research.**

John Smeaton, Society for the Protection of Unborn Children national director said: "The decision represents a disastrous setback for human dignity in Britain. The deliberate blurring of the boundaries between humans and other species is wrong and strikes at the heart of what makes us human. It is creating a category of beings regarded as sub-human who can be used as raw material to benefit other members of the human family, effectively creating a new class of slaves." *(Telegraph, 1/16; BBC, SPUC, 1/17)*

**The European parliament has voted for sexual and reproductive health and rights for children.**

Patrick Buckley of European Life Network said: "This is yet another step in the attempt by anti-life politicians and powerful international organizations to impose their will on all European nations. The report [upon which the vote was based] . . . has many palatable aspects but it is laced with all the trappings of the culture of death which has plagued Europe for some years.

There is not, and never can be, a right to abortion. The sooner our children are protected from the anti-life propaganda that passes as sexual and reproductive health education the better." *(SPUC, 1/17)*

**The British House of Lords has rejected the requirement for consideration of a child's need for a father when offering in vitro fertilization treatment.**

While debating the British government's Human Fertilization and Embryology (HFE) bill, peers agreed, without a vote, to replace references in the HFE Act of 1990 to "the need of that child for a father" with "the need of that child for supportive parenting." *(Evening Standard, 1/22; SPUC, 1/30)*

*World News summaries are from the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) based in London, England: www.spuc.org.uk.*





## All About Offering a Word of Hope

by Grace Kern, 888-217-8679  
[www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)



Word of Hope, the post-abortion healing ministry of Lutherans For Life, started 17 years ago. Since then, we have offered hope and healing to thousands (we average 300 calls per month on our hot-line).

Contacts range in age from teenagers on cell phones to the elderly in nursing homes, from prisoners writing from their cells to someone e-mailing us from a villa in Rome. One thing they all have in common is this: depression, sadness, fear, and guilt surrounding the abortion experience. All are desperately seeking help (as you will see from these letters):

### Struggling Mother

My 21-year-old daughter had an abortion in February of 2002 and was killed in a car accident in September of 2002. My husband insisted she [have the abortion] . . . I knew this was wrong and tried to tell him . . . I feel she was taken because of this decision. It has been five and half years but I still struggle with my relationship with my husband . . . The day they went for the abortion I couldn't go. I spent the day on my knees praying for all. It's extremely difficult to look at my friends' children and see them with their little babies, constantly thinking it should have been my daughter and my grandchild.

### Thankful Mother

Before coming to Word of Hope I thought my life was over and I felt I had no reason to live. My husband had just died of a heart attack and I had two young children. He was only 36. I felt God was punishing us for the abortion we had while in college . . . Because of Word of Hope I know my

God has truly forgiven me. My life has changed through this ministry and the counselors here not only helped me but they helped my children. Thank you for showing us God's love, grace, and mercy can overcome anything.

### Free at Last from Abuse and Abortion

[Word of Hope] has shown me an amazing way to help myself, and it's all through Him. Thank you for your continued encouragement . . . Because of Christ there is hope.

### Mary, in a Texas Prison

That Bible study stuff you sent me—I couldn't stop reading . . . You wouldn't believe the number of women in this prison that have had abortions . . . Could you send us more materials? You think Jesus really loves me? I put up that Bible verse, John 3:16, you gave me on my wall. Please keep praying for me.

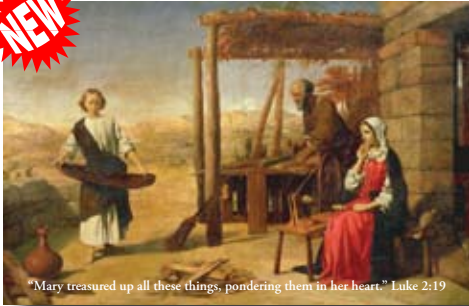
The Psalmist writes: **“He is the Healer of the brokenhearted. He is the One who bandages their wounds”**

(147:3 *GOD'S WORD for Life*). Word of Hope shares that message by providing a toll-free hotline (888-



217-8679); web site ([www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)); crisis intervention; counseling; spiritual care; support groups; resources for pastors, parents, and teachers; educational programs; and Titus 2 for Life (a model for mentoring biblical manhood and womanhood).

To learn how you can reach out to the women and families who mourn the loss of a child to abortion, or help fund this life-changing ministry go to our web site or write us at Word of Hope, 2717 York Road, Oak Brook, IL 60523.



"Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart." Luke 2:19

**The Heart of a Mother** bulletin insert shares that every mother's heart, along with Mary's, is a treasure store of things to ponder—things of joy and things of sorrow. A mother's heart also needs the treasure of Christ's love—to celebrate the joys and to be comforted in sorrow. To read the complete bulletin insert text and to order go to:

[www.lutheransforlife.org/heart\\_of\\_a\\_mother.htm](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/heart_of_a_mother.htm)  
Item 1108BI. \$0.07 ea.



How does a carpenter teach the One who made the trees?

**Faithful Fathers**

spotlights the life of Joseph, the importance of fathers in family life, and the faithfulness of our Heavenly Father in helping dads in their vocation.

"Daily seek to be faithful to your vocation as father. You are important! Daily seek your faithful God's forgiveness. You are important to Him! He will bless and uphold you." To read the complete bulletin insert text and to order go to:

[www.lutheransforlife.org/Faithful\\_Fathers.htm](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/Faithful_Fathers.htm)  
Item 1107BI. \$0.07 ea.



**Not Alone** makes an appropriate and helpful devotional gift for caring pregnancy centers or congregations to give to single mothers. Booklet. By Linda Bartlett. Item 901B. \$2.00 ea.



**For Men Only** - Many fathers do not fully understand that what is about to be aborted is a living, growing human being. This brochure explains current abortion methods and complications. A Scriptural insert is also included. Item 303T. \$0.25 ea.



**Women, Abortion, and the Church: Responsibilities and Rights**  
Some say that abortion is the compassionate solution—the lesser of two evils. Dr. Jean Garton asks, "Why should we offer a woman an evil of any sort?"

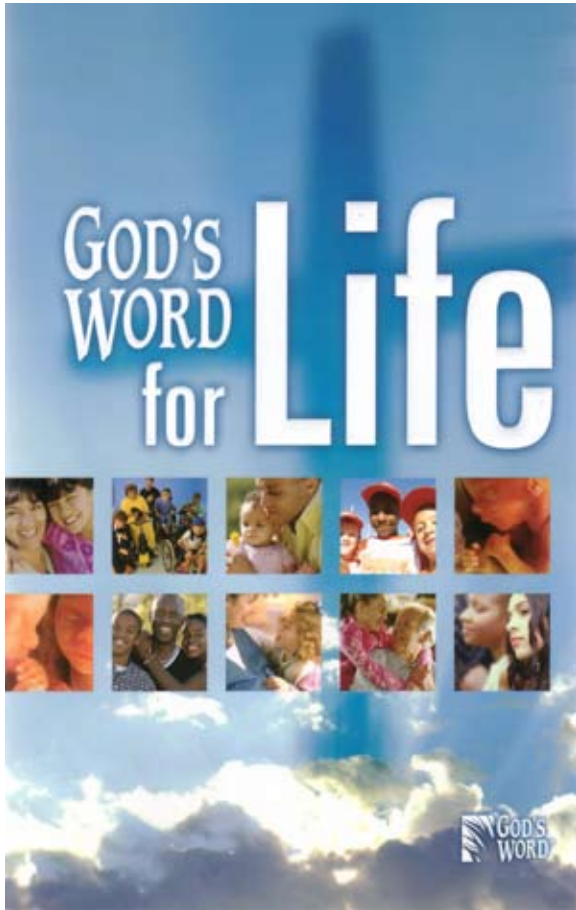
Brochure. Item 201A. \$0.25 ea.



**More Power!** - Within a man's grasp is an incredible amount of power that can be used for good or bad for a woman, a child, or the family. With God's power, men can build up rather than tear down. Brochure. Item 606T. \$0.25 ea.

**GOD'S WORD for Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org/gwfl.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/gwfl.org)**

"I've been reading the commentaries in the "GOD'S WORD for Life" Bible and find them outstanding! What a resource! It is such a thrill to read a Lutheran resource that is pure truth—not a shred of "political correctness" anywhere. Thank you, thank you!!!" Shirley B.



This exceptional study Bible can be used by every Christian involved in every aspect of the pro-life movement—including the thousands of Lutheran and other caring pregnancy centers !

This project is a ONE-OF-A-KIND RESOURCE—integrated with the awesome power of God's Word in clear, natural English—that will enable the Holy Spirit to save and change hundreds of thousands of women's and children's lives in the foreseeable future!

You'll find 38 commentaries on life issues using the clear natural English of the GOD'S WORD translation! A Topical Index/Study Guide Bookmark is included with each Bible.

Paperback – *Item 1618. \$15.00 ea.*

Hardcover – *Item 1619. \$20.00 ea.*

Leather Commemorative Edition – *Item 1619C. \$25.00 ea.*

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

**ORDERING INFORMATION & PAYMENT POLICY:** Please **DO NOT SEND PRE-PAYMENT.** An invoice will be sent with each order. Postage and handling will be added to your total order. Please send payment after receiving your order and invoice. Orders may be placed online (by credit card), by mail, phone, fax, or e-mail. Orders are sent via USPS or UPS. For UPS delivery a street address is required. *Iowa Orders Only: Iowa orders will include sales tax.*

## Pro-Euthanasia Tactics Highlighted at Symposium

An International Symposium on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide hosted, this past December, by the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition of Canada (EPCC) brought together over three hundred participants from around the world. By far the largest symposium of its kind ever, the event drew to Toronto key experts in the areas of law, medicine, political activism, and the rights of people with disabilities.

Key players in the movement spoke to the role of broad coalitions of people who successfully halted attempts at pro-euthanasia legislation in England and Wales, California and Vermont. Speakers from the state of Oregon and the Netherlands spoke to the increasingly corrosive effects of legalized euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide in those jurisdictions upon the integrity of the medical profession and the failure of safeguards to protect vulnerable people.

Disability rights leaders expressed their growing fears about the corrosive effects of a favorable attitude towards euthanasia upon their basic civil rights, as well as their particularly effective role in fending off such legislation.

Alison Davis, who runs “No Less Human,” a group for people with disabilities from the UK, gave a compelling account of her struggles to overcome her disabling condition. She emphasized that she likely would not have

been speaking at the conference had the laws in the United Kingdom allowed for euthanasia or doctor-assisted suicide back when she suffered from severe depression that she has since learned to overcome.

Bobby Schindler, the brother of Terri Schiavo, Henk Reitsma from the Netherlands, and Mrs. Barbara Farlow, a resident of Mississauga, Ontario, shared their real life experiences of having to deal with the deaths of relatives that were hastened as a consequence of medical practices determined by current dangerous attitudes toward the elderly, disabled, and terminally ill.

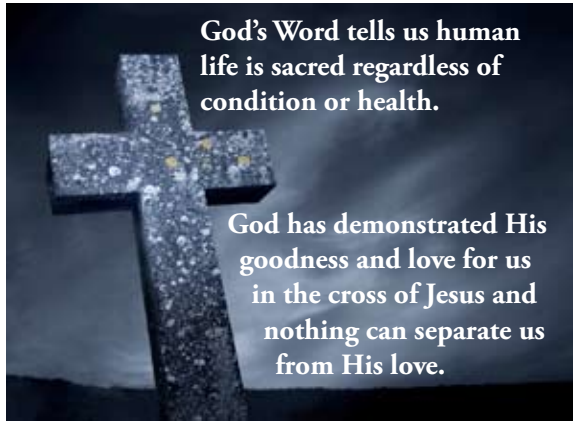
Several speakers covered the philosophical underpinnings that have helped to create the

increasing incidence of attitudes and policies that undermine respect for human life.

Consistent themes emerged from the presentations. On the one hand, the numerous failures of pro-euthanasia

and physician-assisted suicide legislative proposals throughout the United States and in England and Wales revealed that much opposition to the practice still exists in many parts of the world. The legislation was successfully defeated by broad coalitions of people who represented a spectrum of political opinions, both secular and religious in outlook.

However, the almost passive acceptance of such practices in places such as the Netherlands and Belgium seems to indicate that once a society accepts the legitimacy of euthanasia under a few limited conditions,



God's Word tells us human life is sacred regardless of condition or health.

God has demonstrated His goodness and love for us in the cross of Jesus and nothing can separate us from His love.

the underlining change of attitude toward life eventually leads to the practice becoming increasingly widespread, eventually threatening people who want nothing to do with it.

The pro-euthanasia, physician-assisted suicide lobby has also been steadily evolving, having learned from its failures in the past and has shed itself of the cruder elements that often undermined public support. In the words of Rita Marker of the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, they have learned that “all social engineering is preceded by verbal engineering,” and have thus changed their terminology accordingly.

Dr. Paul Byrne, in his talk on brain death, cautioned, as did other speakers, that the term “euthanasia” should never be used. The word is a Greek term meaning “good death” and the killings done via euthanasia are anything but a good death. Use of the term was said to give undeserved credibility and sanction to its contrary deadly results. A suggested appropriate alternative phrase was “imposed death,” which more accurately describes what takes place. Instead of “euthanasia prevention,” Dr. Byrne suggested the phrase “right to continue living” be used. As well, he suggested “physician-assisted suicide” be replaced with “physician-imposed death.”

The death lobby has also focused its efforts more in the direction of political elites, effecting stealth changes in law, the medical profession, and hospital practices that often take place with little public awareness or debate. Articles supporting euthanasia and assisted suicide in prominent medical journals and the ongoing worrisome changes in hospital practices all suggest the battle is far from over and will likely get worse before things begin to improve.

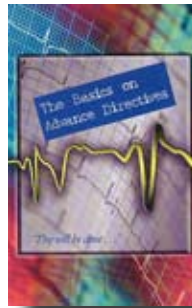
*(LifeSiteNews.com, 12/4/07)*



### **Before I Die - A Practical Guide for End-of-Life Issues**

by Elizabeth Skoglund, shares principles for the Christian at life's end along with words of encouragement.

*Item 809B. \$2.00 ea.*



### **The Basics on Advance Directives: “Thy Will Be Done”**

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb has basic information about Living Wills and other advance directives that will help a Christian answer that question, “Is it proper for a Christian to have a

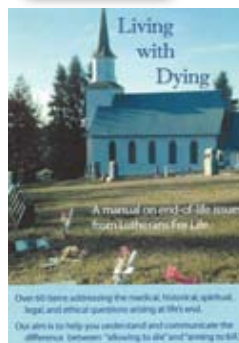
Living Will?” *Item 807B. \$0.25 ea.*



### **A Christian Guide to End-of-Life Decisions**

shares spiritual insight into end-of-life issues by Rev. Dr. Richard C. Eyer who offers guidance in Christian decision-making and in being a faithful witness to God's presence in your life.

*Item 801R. \$0.25 ea.*



### **Living with Dying**

– A 3-ring binder with over 60 items addressing medical, historical, spiritual, legal, and ethical questions arising at life's end. This resource is aimed at helping you to understand—and

communicate—the crucial distinction between “allowing to die” and “aiming to kill.” *Item 802R. \$20.00 ea.*

## Looking Forward to 2009



by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

As many of you know, the LFL annual conference has always been a quality conference with excellent speakers and workshop leaders. I am confident this will continue well into the future.

However, we have decided we will not be able to hold the conference in 2008. This decision was not an easy one and was reached only after much discussion and prayer.

There were a number of factors involved. Hotels must be booked well in advance. The 2008 conference was scheduled for the weekend of the Fourth of July. While it seemed good at the time it was scheduled, our experience last summer with our conference close to the Fourth has given us reason to be more cautious. Attempts to reschedule were unsuccessful.

A positive result of this is that it does free up more time here at the National Life Center for the planning and preparation of LFL's **RENEWAL FOR LIFE** initiative.

Now, you may ask "What's **RENEWAL FOR LIFE**, all about?"

It's about the 3 R's: Responsibility, Relevancy, and Resources!

### RENEWING RESPONSIBILITY

We want to encourage and help pastors and congregations to see addressing the life issues as their responsibility. Addressing the life issues as they affect God's people is not the responsibility of Lutherans For Life. It is the responsibility of the Church and her pastors. We want to help pastors and congregations

see that the life issues are spiritual issues that prey upon Christ's people and promote death as a solution to the problems of life.

### RENEWING RELEVANCY

We want to encourage and help pastors and congregations understand the relevancy and power of the Gospel in addressing these issues. Lutheran pastors and congregations already have what it takes to confront issues of life and death—the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Gospel is the most positive and powerful For Life message in the universe! LFL desires to help congregations see how relevant this message is, to help them connect this message to these issues that God's people often face. We want people to be led to turn to the Lord of Life, not the god of death, for help and hope.

### RENEWING RESOURCES

Assuming the responsibility to deal with the complexity of the life issues and applying the Gospel to them cannot be done effectively and consistently without help. LFL pledges to provide the necessary product and people resources.

With your help and support and by God's grace, we will launch the national **RENEWAL FOR LIFE** campaign in the fall of 2008. These are exciting times. There is much to be done. So, saddened as we are about canceling the 2008 conference, we will value the extra time and use it in a very positive way.

Be assured, we are planning for a national conference in 2009! In the meantime, I encourage you to attend local and state LFL conferences in 2008. In the following column is an overview of some upcoming state LFL events.



**North Wisconsin LFL Conference**

March 1-2, Turtle Lake, Wisconsin

**South Wisconsin LFL Conference**September 27, Concordia University,  
Mequon, Wisconsin

Speakers include Rev. Dr. Kevin Voss, Director of the Concordia Bioethics Institute and Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Concordia University Wisconsin, and Diane Chadwick, president of Lutherans For Life of Wisconsin.

For more information go to:

[www.lfl-wi.org](http://www.lfl-wi.org), e-mail [diane.chadwick@fbfwi.com](mailto:diane.chadwick@fbfwi.com), or call Diane Chadwick at 920-474-7143.

**LFL of Iowa Cruise for Life to Alaska**

August 3-10

LFL of Iowa invites you aboard for a week of renewal, encouragement, and education. Brian Young, founder of Creation Instruction Association, will be the key presenter. Ports of call include Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, and Victoria, British Columbia. The cruise departs and concludes from Seattle, Washington.

For more information go to:

[www.inspirationcruises.com/html/lutherans\\_for\\_life.html](http://www.inspirationcruises.com/html/lutherans_for_life.html). For reservations call 800-247-1899. If you have specific questions or would like a brochure, please e-mail Mary Zimmermann at [maryz@iowatelecom.net](mailto:maryz@iowatelecom.net) or Linda Bartlett at [lindabartlett@mchsi.com](mailto:lindabartlett@mchsi.com).

**LFL of Missouri State Conference**

October (Watch for the date and location in the summer 2008 edition of *LifeDate*.)

Dr. Jean Garton will be the keynote speaker. Her topic will be *Thirty-five Years of Roe*.

For more information go to:

[www.lfolfmo.org](http://www.lfolfmo.org), e-mail [lfolfmo@yahoo.com](mailto:lfolfmo@yahoo.com), or call Diane Albers at 314-631-9240.

**Teaching For Life**

**Teaching For Life** (available summer 2008) is so easy to use we don't even call it a curriculum!

**Teaching For Life** teaches nine key pro-life concepts—one for each month of the school year—by giving ideas on how to incorporate them into religion, math, social studies, etc.

**Teaching For Life** will come as a sturdy 8.5" x 11" full color tri-fold format, providing you with all that is needed to teach a key life concept all month long in a variety of ways. A CD will provide additional resources and teaching tools.

**Teaching For Life** is positive and Gospel-centered! Grade levels are: PK-K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8.

**Teaching For Life** sample pages, pricing info (when available), and more, can be found at our web site!

**Teaching For Life**

## Honoring Life

by Karen L. Frohwein  
Director of Development



This issue of *LifeDate* will be special to many people. On the next few pages, you will see lists of memorial and honorarium gifts given to Lutherans For Life in 2007. Many of you will know some of the people on these lists. You will see mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, children, pastors, and friends. You will see loved ones with a common understanding—**Life Wins!**

The mission of Lutherans For Life is to witness to that message. Your gifts help pass on that message in a world that points to death. What a fitting way to honor someone who has made a difference in your life. What a fitting way to honor the Lord of Life for His blessings. What a way to pass the message that **Life Wins** on to others who need the comfort, forgiveness, and peace found in that victory.

There are so many stories to tell about the people on these pages. One couple thanked us for “allowing them to have a small part in the ministry of LFL.” We are so grateful and humbled when we receive these generous gifts. To God be the glory and thanksgiving as He allows all of us to be a part of His work.

Allow me to tell you about two of the “winners” whose witness will be carried on through the gifts of others.

This fall we received a memorial gift to be used to support **RENEWAL FOR LIFE**. The Houston LFL chapter sent us a letter with the

gift stating, “Our general membership voted unanimously today to contribute these funds in honor of Pastor John “Lou” Konz who, as you know, was a tireless advocate for Life.”

Pastor Konz certainly was a tireless advocate for Life. While I didn’t have a chance to meet him, I have met many people who will tell you that God used him to make a difference in their lives—to proclaim **Life Wins!** through his ministry and example. Receiving a gift in Pastor Konz’s memory to be used for **RENEWAL FOR LIFE** was so fitting as he was very aware of the need for the Church to accept the responsibility to tie the Gospel to the life issues. Through his vocation, Pastor Konz made a very public statement for Life and the Lord of Life. Through gifts given in his memory, that statement will continue to be proclaimed.

This year’s list of memorials also includes a very special person in my life, my Grandma

Moore, who entered into eternal life December 1, 2007, at age 96. My grandmother’s 62nd birthday was January 22, 1973. I don’t remember ever talking to Grandma about *Roe v. Wade*, or abortion, or many other life issues. She was never one to join groups or get

involved in causes. And yet, like Pastor Konz, through her vocation, Grandma Moore was a tireless advocate For Life!

I carry Grandma’s obituary with me. It’s not very long, and probably not very notable in the eyes of the world. It tells of a loving and devoted wife, mother, and homemaker; a lifetime member of a rural Lutheran church; a grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother. A woman who in eternal



Rev. John “Lou” and Mrs. Helen Konz; Grandma Hilda Moore





life rejoined her parents, husband, son, and sisters in heaven.

I don't carry this short newspaper clipping to remember the details of Grandma's life. I carry it to remind me that **Life Wins!** Grandma was baptized into life! When she died, she entered into eternal life! In between those events, there was a constant witness to life! She accepted each day the Lord gave her and was faithful to Him, to her husband, and to her family. She sinned and she received forgiveness at the Lord's Table. She quietly lived life knowing there was victory in Christ.

When I would tell Grandma how God had used her to touch my life, she would shrug her shoulders and say she really didn't think she was worth much. They started painting her fingernails in the care facility. We would smile together, both of us knowing she would rather have the dirt of her garden beneath her nails than the polish on top of them. She didn't really care about the fingernail polish, but it made the staff happy to paint her nails. Making other people happy was her way to serve the Lord.

In her last days, Grandma could no longer speak and didn't open her eyes much. Yet, every time I visited her and prayed the Lord's Prayer, there was movement—a witness to life. In her final hours, one of the nurses at the care facility told us how graceful Grandma was as she approached death. Even then, Grandma's life was a witness to the peace that comes from being "full of grace." Even then, Life was winning!

The following pages are full of winners like Pastor Konz and Grandma Moore. Winners of their eternal victory and God's victorious people here on earth. Winners whose gifts will allow more people to hear the message that **Life Wins!** What a winning team, led by the One who gives us the victory, Our Lord Jesus Christ!

### Lutherans For Life "Wish List"

Would you or someone you know be interested in supporting a special LFL project? Here are some opportunities that might be of interest:

#### **1<sup>st</sup> printing of new resources: \$7500.**

LFL continues to produce full-color resources for use in churches, schools, and home. New materials are waiting to be printed!

#### **2008 Convention display and travel expenses: \$920 average per conference.**

Next year LFL will display at 13 national conventions. Would you or your group be interested in adopting a convention? Call me for a list! (Two have been funded!)

#### **New heating and cooling units for the Life Center: \$5000 per unit.**

Our present heating and cooling units are over 25 years old and repair costs keep rising. It is time to think about replacing the 5 units in the building.

#### **LifeDate printing and mailing costs: \$14,200 per issue.**

Our #1 resource reaching over 30,000 homes, churches, and organizations every quarter.

#### **Update computers: \$750 each. Update software: \$2000 (total).**

While not all our computers need to be replaced, updating computers and Windows software is an ongoing need in order for us to work efficiently and effectively to convey the For Life message of the Gospel.

*Learn more about these or other opportunities to support the ministry of Lutherans For Life by contacting Karen Frohwein at:*

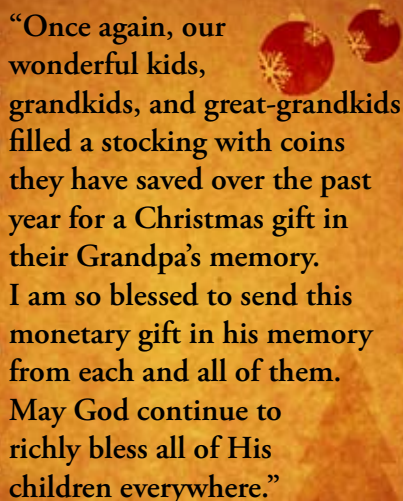
**888-364-LIFE**

***kfrohwein@lutheransforlife.org***

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**My cousin** by Kathy Meyer;  
**Robert W. Curry** by Reinhard & Maureen Friedrich;  
**Mr. Arnold Daberkow** by Rev. Terry Daberkow;



“Once again, our wonderful kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids filled a stocking with coins they have saved over the past year for a Christmas gift in their Grandpa’s memory. I am so blessed to send this monetary gift in his memory from each and all of them. May God continue to richly bless all of His children everywhere.”

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“We feel God has so richly blessed us with his love, grace, and mercy through 50 years of marriage that we wanted to share some of our gifts with you in support of the work you are doing.”

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**Elinor & Gilbert Bery's 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** by Joann Frank;

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**Ernie & Alberta Brackhan's 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**

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**Clemons Lutheran School faculty and staff** by Gilbert & Bonnie Berrey;

**Amanda Cohee** by William & Susan Cohee;

**Mary Ann Cox** by Kenneth L. Cox;

**Our grandchildren** by Frank & Bernice Craft;

**Rev. & Mrs. James Creamer** by Carl & Diane Schroeder;

**Rev. Dwaine & Janice Docemus** by Rev. & Mrs. Virgil Ewoldt;

**Mr. & Mrs. Jim Folger's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** by John & Jean Lucht;

**Phyllis Franber's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday** by Roselea Nellis;

**Fred & Millie Gallert** by Sherry L. Burmeister;  
**Rev. John & Tonya Gierke's marriage** by Marcus Jacob Ring;

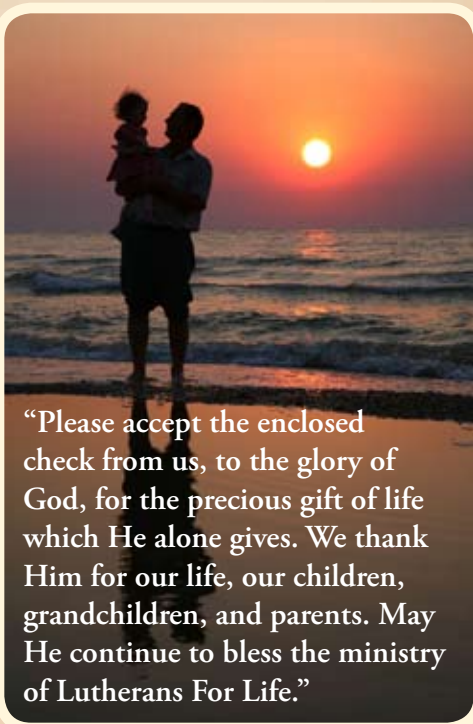
**Steve, Scott, & Kristi Geishecker** by Cindy Geishecker;

**Mildred Hanser Gross** by Larry & Kitty Oetting;

**Joan Grotelueschen** by Lt. Col. Mark & Alison Groteleuschen;

**Confirmation of Garrett Guimond** by Michael & Glennise Wendorf;

**Rev. & Mrs. G. F. Hallman** by Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Ferguson;



“Please accept the enclosed check from us, to the glory of God, for the precious gift of life which He alone gives. We thank Him for our life, our children, grandchildren, and parents. May He continue to bless the ministry of Lutherans For Life.”

**Our sons' biological mothers** by Dean & Deanna Hobelmann;

**Hilda Jochimsen** by Ron & Carol Jochimsen;

**Mary & Jason Johnson** by Roger & Jane Henry;

**Our daughters Kathy, Lora, & Sara and their families** by Wilfred & Dorothy Ziekert;

**Chester & Peggy Kizzire's 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** by Glennise & Mike Wendorf;

**Rev. & Mrs. Herb Kluck's birthdays** by Armand & Karen Haak;

**The Krenning & Snyder families** by Marguerite Krenning;

**Martin Kretzmann's birthday** by Rev. & Mrs. James Kretzmann;

**Phillip & Judy Kuehnert** by Tyler H. Gill;

**Our nine grandchildren**

by Rev. Bruce & Deb Lakamp;

**Rev. & Mrs. Bruce Lakamp** by St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Boone, Iowa;

**Deb Lakamp** by Randy & Karen Frohwein;

**Rev. Dr. James Lamb's 25 years in the ministry** by Dr. Elsa Brochman and Dr. Sam Murray, Terry & Connie Davis, Randy & Karen Frohwein;

**Margaret Lion** by Allan & Donna Benson;

**My 10 healthy grandchildren** by Elise Locke;  
**Confirmation of Kasey Manley** by Michael & Glennise Wendorf;

**Ruby Maschke's birthday** by Rev. Kenneth & Mrs. Pam Lueke;

**My daughter Maureen** by Rosemary E. Wold;  
**Lydia Satorius Mayer** by William Satorius;  
**Kent Meyerhoff's support of LFL** by Tonya Crawshaw;  
**Our grandchildren Mitchell, Molly, & Isabella** by Ed & Esther Oehme;  
**Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Mueller** by Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Kieffer;  
**Our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** by Rev. John & Marian Obeda;  
**Mrs. Judith Otten** by Eric & Kim Otten;  
**Nicole (Aufderheide) Owens** by Mr. & Mrs. Fred H. Aufderheide;  
**Our granddaughters Paige, Anna, & Mia** by Mr. & Mrs. Henry Gallmeyer;  
**My great grandson Stephen Calvin Palmiter** by Lucille Palmiter;  
**Arthur & Joan Phipps' 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** by Juanita H. Meschke;  
**Robert & Mary Jo Prah** by Mr. & Mrs. Warren Prah;  
**Francis Rowe's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday** by Edith Ambrecht;  
**Our 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** by Steve & Judy Rozek;  
**St. John's Lutheran Church, Seward, Nebraska,** by Nebraska Lutherans for Life;  
**Raymond & Lucille Schilling's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** by Terry & Jan Hedeman;  
**Tony Schmitz** by Margaret Schmitz;  
**John & Jeanette Schultz's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** by Glennise & Mike Wendorf;  
**Our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** by Joy & Leonard Siekert;  
**My daughter Stacey** by Linda D. Taylor;  
**Gene & Mary Stelhorn's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary** by Mr. & Mrs. William Lichtenberg;  
**My precious children Steve, Scott, & Kristi** by Cindy Geishecker;  
**The Sumsy family** by Ruth Proft Dannehl;  
**Rev. & Mrs. Dale Sveom's 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** by Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth L. Cox;  
**Alice Tepe** by Ron & Carol Jochimsen;  
**Rev. Kent Umbarger's 20 years in the ministry** by Rev. & Mrs. Bruce Lakamp;  
**Robert & Marion Underhill** by Jane Schwalm;  
**Irma Widdel's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday** from Rev. Marvin & Marilyn Barz;  
**Jerry & Ardith Wolvin's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** by Donald & Norma Troester;  
**Dr. Jerry Yarnell** by Amy Brandt;  
**Dr. Larry & Marianne Yoder** by Fuad & Kathy Rihani;

**Gary Zeilinger's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday** by Gary & Kathy Conzelmann;  
**Our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** by Rev. Richard & Connie Ziehr;  
**Our family blessings** by Rev. Bruce & Mary Zimmermann;  
**Byron Zuehlk's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday** by Donna Zuehlk;  
**Byron Zuehlk's retirement** by Donna Zuehlk.

*To all those who have supported Lutherans For Life with your prayers and gifts, "We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."  
1 Thessalonians 1:2-3*

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

### April 6 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

The Word of God points to a resurrected Jesus. (Luke 24:27). The Word of God gives new life, is “living,” and “remains forever.” (1 Peter 1:22-25) It is the perfect word to apply to life and those issues that deal with life.

### April 13 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Satan comes to “steal and kill and destroy” life. The Good Shepherd came to give life “abundantly.” (John 10:10) To disguise abortion as anything but sin and the work of Satan brings aid and comfort to our enemy. To proclaim Jesus and His abundant life to those considering an abortion or to those who have had one brings strength, hope, and healing.

### April 20 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

As we rejoice and take comfort in His promise, “I go to prepare a place for you,” so we must trust in His timing, “I will come again and will take you to myself.” (John 14:3)

### April 27 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Paul’s speaking to the Athenians in Acts 17:16-31 provides a model for engaging society and using the life issues to proclaim Christ. He started where they were at. (23) He proclaimed biblical truths without “Bible thumping.” (24-29) He ended up sharing the resurrected Jesus. (31)

### May 4 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

The early Christians suffered many “fiery” trials. (1 Peter 4:12) Christians today in many parts of the world continue to suffer insults, bodily harm, and even death for the name of Christ. We do not honor such Christians when we fail to take a biblical stand on the life issues because we fear mere discord or ridicule. We can, as they did, “entrust [our] souls to a faithful Creator while doing good” (4:19).

### May 11 – The Day of Pentecost

The Holy Spirit poured out upon believers (Acts 2:1-21), is pour out of believers as “living water.” (John 7:37). “Living water” because the Spirit is at work bringing faith, forgiveness, hope, and life eternal. What greater *For Life* message could there be?

### May 18 – The Holy Trinity

“In the beginning . . .” God, the Father, created. (Genesis 1:1) “And the Spirit of God was hovering . . . (1:2b). “And God said . . .” (1:3). The Word of God, the Son who would become flesh, was the agent of God’s

creative work. This Triune God brought forth in six days of creation the backdrop for the crown of His creation, “Let us make man in our image” (1:26a). Contemplate the value this gives to human life.

### May 25 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus stated it clearly, “Do not be anxious about your life . . .” (Matthew 6:25). But sometimes we seek worldly solutions to our problems as if He didn’t mean it, as if we are not engraved on the palms of His hands (Isaiah 49:16a). It is always good to be reminded, “Seek first the kingdom of God . . .” (Matthew 6:33a).





**June 1 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

“There is no distinction: for all have sinned” (Romans 3:22b-23a). The post-abortive woman, who often feels like the worst of sinners, needs to hear this clearly. It will help open the door of her heart to hear, “and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (3:24).

**June 8 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Jesus came to save sinners, even tax collectors who were considered by many to be the worst of sinners. (Matthew 9:9-13) Many consider abortionists to be the worst of sinners today. Do we despise them or pray that Christ’s mercy will touch them?

**June 15 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). There are no circumstances, sufferings, or pains in life that can ever separate us from the assurance of such a love.

**June 22 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

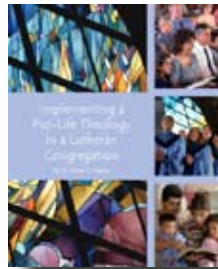
God knows us intimately, to our very hairs. Such knowledge gives value. Such value calms fears. We can boldly acknowledge Christ and His truth. (Matthew 10:26-33)

**June 29 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Discussing the life issues as political issues can bring discord to families. Discussing the life issues as spiritual issues may do the same. But with the latter, you have opportunity to connect these issues to the Word of Life which points to Jesus who changes hearts. (Matthew 10:34-39)

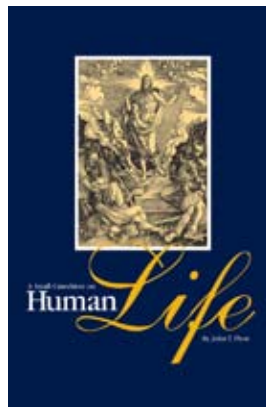


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## The Legacy of “Choice”

by Diane E. Schroeder  
National LFL President



“Freedom of Choice” has been used by our society to describe many choices we make—from picking a soft drink to denim jeans. As Lutherans who are For Life, however, we know that “freedom of choice” is really just a euphemism for abortion. “Choice” is now in its 36th year and we can see everywhere the devastation it has caused. Here are just a few examples:

- The nuclear family as defined as mother, father, and children has been undermined as evidenced by the explosion of children born to unmarried women. (In Illinois, where I live, up from 18 percent of total births in 1973 to 37 percent in 2005.)
- In a recent survey analyzing American attitudes toward marriage, having children was almost at the bottom of the list in importance, only ahead of spouses agreeing on politics.
- The God-given roles of mother and father have been dramatically altered. “Choice” disconnected men from their role as protectors of women and children by telling them they had no say in the life of their unborn child. Not surprisingly, men have responded by refusing responsibility for unwanted pregnancies, placing the complete burden on the woman.

Even more tragic is the personal guilt and grief of those who chose abortion as a solution to an unwanted pregnancy.

“My girlfriend had an abortion in 1986; it was a little girl. I am now in my early 40’s, looking at the young adults who would be my daughter’s age. I am horrified when I remember what I have done. I have confessed, but at the end of the day, I will have to face that little girl, who I couldn’t be bothered to love enough to let her have a life she was entitled to and I had no right to interfere with. I can’t imagine what I’ll say. Sorry somehow doesn’t seem enough for the crime.”

“I regret that no one comforted me and offered a different solution to my situation. The bond was between my baby and me, and not even an abortion could break it. The love I feel for my baby is mixed with an incredible amount of guilt for taking his life; and I miss him so very much, I am left alone with the memory of the warmth of that little life within me, and the shame of allowing it to be taken.”

The legacy of “choice” is overwhelming: sin, dysfunction, death, grief, despair, guilt, shame.

But then God chose.

He chose to send His Son into the muck and mire of our world, and through His death on the cross, offering forgiveness and eternal life to **all** of us who suffer from the result of bad choices. Because of God’s choice **all** of us are freed from sin and its condemnation. Christ has overcome the result of sin—death—and because of His victory we overcome the result of our sin as well.

As redeemed and saved Christians we now have a choice. We can choose to engage

in our world offering to all who have made bad choices the freedom that comes through trusting in God's choice.

As partners in Lutherans For Life, I know that you have already made that choice. As Lutherans For Life connects God's Word to the many life issues that surround us, decisions change, lives are saved, and people freed from guilt and condemnation. What a joy for me to participate with you in this great ministry! May God bless you as you partner with us in reaching out to all the victims of "choice in America."



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"But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."  
1 Corinthians 15:57

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."  
John 16:33

"Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"  
Romans 7:24-25a



**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 198 Life Ministry Coordinators in the United States.

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

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

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