

LifeDate

Summer 2008

A quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life

Fatherhood and Abortion

God loves fathers. He is one. Fathers of aborted children can find hope and comfort in this fact. God is the Father of Jesus and, in Him, our Father.



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8 Weeks, 4 Days



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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Possessed by Grace



by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

Nobody tells us but Mark, and he makes it sound almost incidental. **“Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons”** (Mark 16:9 emphasis added). You can’t say it with subtlety or sensitivity—Mary Magdalene had been an evil woman times seven! We can’t begin to comprehend the evil that surrounded this woman’s life and tormented her soul.

But there is no need. It’s past tense. The demons gone, sent on their hellish way by a word from the Lord and Giver of life. To this cleansed woman now possessed by grace—not Peter or James or John—Jesus makes His first resurrection appearance. Indeed, she becomes the first messenger of the risen Christ to the apostles. (John 20:17)

A Hebrew idiom describes sorrow and grief as “evil of the heart.” Mothers and fathers of aborted children sooner or later experience this great evil. To say that they are possessed by this evil does not overstate the case. It often produces unexplained behaviors—uncontrollable weeping, drug abuse, promiscuity, severe depression, and more. When the reality of their “choice” strikes, it torments their souls. They may not be possessed by seven demons, but they often feel beyond hope.



But hope need only be abandoned at the gates of Hell. A resurrected Jesus is a “living hope” (1 Peter 1:3) that excludes no one. His appearance to Mary Magdalene, a former very evil sinner, speaks of His love and grace for all such sinners today. Those experiencing the “evil of the heart” of abortion, can picture Jesus casting out their evil through His death on the cross and possessing them by His grace. They can picture the risen Jesus standing before them, calling them by name, showing them favor as if they had never experienced sin and evil at all.

I have often talked about post-abortive men and women as “Rachels” based on Matthew 2:18 (NIV), **“A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted because they are no more.”** Such deep grief certainly applies to modern day “Rachels.” The joy of the Church in regard to such men and women, is to move them along from “Rachels” to “Mary Magdalenes.” Only the message of the Gospel of forgiveness applied to

them can lift them up from this great “evil of the heart” and stand them cleansed and pure before the living Christ.

There are a lot of “Rachels” sitting in our pews, fathers and mothers of aborted children. They need to hear the hope of the Gospel preached and taught to them and applied to the sin of abortion. They need to be brought to see themselves as “Mary Magdalenes,” the demons gone, sent on their hellish way by a word from the Lord and Giver of life.

Fatherhood and Abortion

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

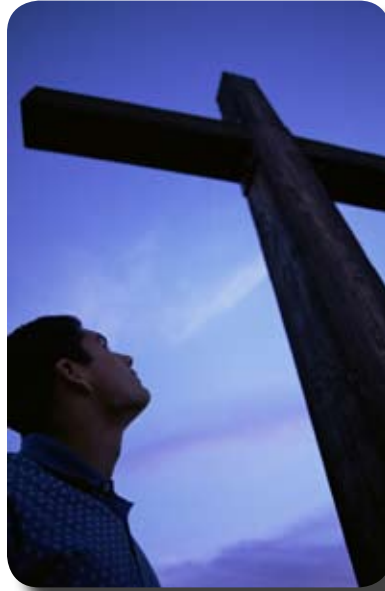


It was a tearful plea from a young man over the phone. “My girlfriend is pregnant and is going to have an abortion. It’s my child as well as hers. What can I do?”

It was with tearful regret that a young woman spoke of her reasons for choosing abortion. “My boyfriend said I had to” was at the top of the list.

Both of these situations remind us of something it is all too easy to overlook—men are affected by the choice of abortion. The first scenario reminds us that a father has no choice when it comes to whether his child will be aborted or not. Legally, the choice to abort lies solely with the mother. The father may pray, encourage the choice of life, try to get the mother to a pregnancy center, but he has no legal recourse. This inability to protect his child can lead to a wide range of emotional problems including depression and despair.

The second situation above reminds us that sometimes the father is the one who is pressuring the mother to make the abortion choice. He may feel ashamed, guilty, confused, and afraid. He just wants the “problem” to go away. He may threaten to break off the relationship. He may offer to pay for the abortion or drive her to the clinic. Sooner or later, however, the reality of his action—promoting the death of his own child—may overwhelm him and lead to shame, guilt, and despair.



Abortion is Contrary to God’s Plan for Fatherhood

There is a reason why both situations can lead men to despair. It is hard to dispute that for a woman to make a choice to have the child of her womb killed is “unnatural.” It is contrary to God’s design and will for mothers. The same is true for men. It is “unnatural” for a father not to protect his child. The first man, Adam, was given the role of providing (Genesis 2:15). God’s will about the trees of the Garden of Eden was given to him (Genesis 2:16-17). He was to ensure his future wife and family would enjoy the fruit of the garden, and he was to protect them from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He is held responsible when he fails to do so

(1Corinthians 15:22). As a result, there is now so much more from which children need protection. Throughout Scripture, fathers are placed as heads of their families to love, provide, and protect. Being unable or unwilling to protect his child from abortion strikes at the very heart of fatherhood.

Hope for Fathers in the Fatherhood of God

But there is hope. God loves fathers. He is one. Fathers of aborted children can find hope and comfort in this fact. God is the Father of Jesus and, in Him, our Father. The resurrected Jesus said to Mary,

“Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God’” (John 20:17b NIV).

God understands fatherhood. God understands the loss of a child.

There is hope for fathers who were unable

to prevent the abortion of their children. Fathers of aborted children have no focus for their grief. There is no body to view, no funeral to attend, and no graveside to visit. Since abortion is a “legal right,” there is not even recognition of a need for fathers to grieve. For the most part, society has abandoned these grieving fathers. But God does not abandon them. In Psalm 91, God’s Fatherhood is described as a “fortress.” But He is not a cold, immovable fortress.

“He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart” (Psalm 91:4 NIV).

God is a warm, loving, and movable fortress. He can come where we are. He is with us to support us and strengthen us right in the middle of our grief. It is His faithfulness, not our circumstances, that we can rely upon. He has demonstrated His faithfulness in the sending of His own Son. Under God’s wings, fathers of aborted children can grieve, and in the resurrected Jesus, they have a living hope (1Peter 1:3).

There is hope for fathers who were unwilling to protect their children and supported or even demanded the abortion. When our heavenly Father gave up His Son for us on the cross, Jesus’ first words were,

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34 NIV).

The soldiers who nailed Jesus to that cross and then gambled for His clothing really had no idea of the holy innocence of this particular victim of their cruel execution. This did not excuse them from their sin, but neither were they excluded from God’s forgiveness.

There is so much acceptance of the “rightness” of abortion in our country and so much pressure that this is the one and only way out of a difficult situation that many rush

into abortion without fully understanding the cruel reality of what they have done. This does not excuse them from their sin, but neither does it exclude them from God’s forgiveness. If God can forgive those who crucified His own Son, He can, and does, forgive those who committed the sin of abortion.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9 NIV).

God’s justice over sin was satisfied when Jesus suffered sin’s punishment for all sinners on the cross. Because of this our faithful Father will “forgive” (literally “send away”) our sins and “purify us” (literally “cleanse completely”). He will do this for “all” sins we confess to Him including the sin of abortion.

Fathers who have been involved in the sin of abortion may want to seek out a pastor and go through individual confession and absolution. This is a wonderful way to share your grief and burden and receive God’s forgiveness through His servant, the pastor, as if from Christ Himself.

Many have found David’s prayer over his great sin particularly helpful. It seems a fitting way to end this article. Perhaps it will be the beginning of hope and healing for some hurting father as He turns to the Fatherhood of God.

“Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry for help come to you. Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress. Turn your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly” (Psalm 102:1-2 NIV).

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin” (Psalm 51:1 NIV).

Jesus' Big Hands of Blessing

by Rev. Dr. Glenn A. Nielsen



The following are excerpts from Dr. Nielsen's 2008 Life Sunday sermon.

Hands communicate. They tell us so much about a person. A hand reaching down to help someone up says, "I'm on your side. I'm here to help." A hand caressing another hand or a cheek tells someone, "I love you. I want to be close to you." A hand beckoning someone to come near or waving "Hi," lets you know, "You're welcome here, come on in." If you see someone's hands moving rapidly while talking, you know the person is excited about something.

But hands can also communicate anger and hate. A hand made into a fist to hit someone is violence waiting to happen. A hand can slap someone to show how upset and angry the person might be. A hand can hold a weapon to threaten or kill. Or hands can be put up in defense in an effort to protect from those other hands that want to abuse or hurt.

Yes, hands communicate.

The Bible uses that simple truth that hands tell us much about someone to tell us much about God. The whole of creation, all the universe, is said to be God's handiwork, the work of His hands. God's hands hold everything together. Without His almighty strength keeping the world going, we would immediately fall into chaos and destruction. So we sing "He's got the whole world in His

hands." When God's people were in slavery in Egypt, the plagues that convinced Pharaoh to let the Israelites go free are described as God's strong hand and outstretched arm. God's hand also describes His punishment for those who disobey Him. When you read of God's hands in the Bible, you learn so much about God's awesome power, His loving care, His almighty protection, His just punishments.

The same can be said of Jesus. He is God's Son. He is fully divine, fully God. Whatever is said about God's hands can be said about Jesus' hands, and whatever Jesus does with His hands tells us so much about God. There's awesome power—miracles are done with Jesus' hands. Just a touch of His hand and the deaf hear,

the lame walk, and the dead come back to life. Just punishment—the money changers are driven out of the temple, the demons are cast out and away, the Pharisees are sent packing with a wave of His hand. Then there's loving care—children

come to be blessed and Jesus reaches out His hand to pray for them. Jesus' hands are powerful, just, and loving . . .

. . . At Grace Lutheran Chapel in Bellefontaine Neighbors, Missouri, one stained glass window (shown above) has an eye-catching scene. Jesus is standing over three children: a young boy praying, a baby playing on a pillow, and a young girl planting a flower. What stands out is the size of Jesus' hands. They are huge, seemingly out of proportion to the rest of His body. They are raised in blessing. When we read those headlines and begin to wonder where the divine protection and loving care might be, this window is an excellent reminder that we need to first look



for Jesus' BIG hands of blessings right here in the Church, where He has promised to be, where He has promised to bless us.

In the Church I am reminded that His hands were raised, outstretched, in blessing on the strangest of places—a cross. His hands have nails through them. But those nails didn't hold Him to the cross, love does . . . And here at Church, where He has promised to be, I am reminded that His hands of blessing are alive again, risen from the dead . . . Jesus' hands bring peace when we are so troubled by the headlines, bring hope when we are so troubled when the littlest of His creation are trampled upon. All because He is alive and now sitting at God's right hand of power . . .

. . . And in the Church I am reminded that Jesus' big hands are still at work to bring blessings to children—born or in the womb or just a few days old after conception. His big hands are still at work to bring blessings to *any one* who is seen as insignificant, of little value, not worth the time of day—like the severely mentally handicapped, the older adult in the nursing home with Alzheimer's, the homeless man on the street corner, the prostitute dying of AIDS, or the murderer on death row. And yes, Jesus' nail-scarred hands bring forgiveness to those who are crushed by the sin of a past abortion.

How so? Well, He uses our hands to do His work of blessing. Jesus blesses us to go and be a blessing to others. Our hands become His hands in this world. Our hands communicate so much about the Savior we worship.

Remember Jesus blessing the children? He prayed for them. So also our hands can be folded together in prayer. We ask for God's blessings on those who are so easily trampled upon. We ask the Holy Spirit to move and work in this world so that leaders and governments will protect and care for those who cannot fend for themselves.

And our hands go out to do His work of blessing in this world. Look at your hands. They are the hands of Christ. They are His big hands of blessing. What can they do? Write a check, vote, help, carry, care, show compassion, defend, (or even build a CPC. I could go on—it's a long list . . .)

. . . Remember the cross, and you see Jesus' hands outstretched in love for all. Remember Thomas touching Jesus' hands alive, and you see Jesus' hands giving hope and peace because He is stronger than the violence and death in this world. And then look at your hands. They are now Christ's hands of blessing in this world. Use them to be a blessing because there are so many who are treated as insignificant, of no value, and are in danger of being trampled upon. Yes, Christ's big hands of blessing are right here in His Church and in this world.

Rev. Dr. Glenn A. Nielsen is Director of Vicarage at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri.

How many abortions are done in the U.S. every day?

Answer: **3,287**

Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute.

In the Hand of God

Life Sunday Bulletin Inserts
 Bible Studies • Worship Service
 Formats • Children's Message
 Sermons & more!

www.lutheransforlife.org

Dad: A Girl's First Hero (Part Two)

by Linda D. Bartlett



This article continues with excerpts from an interview Carrie Gress, of the ZENIT news agency, did recently with Dr. Meg Meeker, with added commentary of my own.

Gress: You say there is a clear connection between depression in girls and young women and sexual activity. How can a father's love help protect against this in our sexually saturated culture?

Meeker:

Depression in girls is all about ungrieved losses accumulated in the heart. This connection can be backed up with medical data . . . When girls approach sexuality, a huge emotional component is involved. When a girl is sexually active once, and it doesn't matter if it is oral sex or intercourse, she incurs a loss. In the physical act, she has lost something in her heart, her virginity, her respect for herself. When girls feel this, if they don't acknowledge that they are hurt and that something has happened to them, then they will live with unresolved grief, which leads to depression.

. . . [I]f a young person has a bad sexual experience . . . [boy or girl may] immediately think they did something wrong—not, "Maybe I shouldn't be doing this." In order to correct this "wrong," they will try to make up for it in some other experience, which leads

to a downward spiral of messy relationships, physical risk, and emotional damage.

Ironically, while our culture is now immunizing girls against sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), we endlessly market sex to them, paying little attention to all of the layers of risk. This . . . would never happen with cigarettes or alcohol, where we would give kids an immunization against lung cancer yet promote smoking. This problem is missed . . . because sexual freedom has come to be seen as a right.

Bartlett: The modern feminist movement, presuming to lead young women toward greater freedom, actually helped lead women

into a state of unhappiness. As some have confessed to me, they were actually taught to live as irresponsibly as irresponsible men. But, the Father God does not abandon the depressed, unloved, or unhappy

woman or man. Jesus Christ, God who came to earth, experienced the feelings and emotions of humanity. He knows the best plan for our lives. He knows our design. He knows our deepest needs. He offers His hand to lead us out of despair and toward a future of hope.

Gress: You suggest the importance of raising a daughter with humility, emphasizing that she should see the world like a pioneer, asking, "What can I do for others," instead of like a princess who lives with a sense of entitlement. How can this contribute to her long-term happiness?

Meeker: . . . Parents just want their kids



to be happy, but they perceive incorrectly that it comes from receiving pleasure, so when children receive, receive, receive, happiness does not come . . . Despite our material wealth, depression rates have never been so high. Clearly we are missing something. Parents have been duped. What works is when we teach kids to serve, to look beyond themselves. Real joy and happiness comes when kids understand that they have a purpose in life, and a mission to fulfill. The only way to get them to understand this is to look beyond self and doing good for others.

This is the source of real transformation, but this can't happen without humility, the opposite of which is pride. When parents instill humility, a kid understands that he or she is important, and loveable, but not separate from others in their humanity. If a kid really wants to feel good about himself, humility brings people closer, whereas pride separates.

Bartlett: Children who grow up knowing that they are handmade by the God who sacrificed for them are boys and girls who will know why to respect themselves and others. They will learn to be kind to others and patiently anticipate good things in proper time. A girl may better understand, for example, that even though she longs for a boy's attention, her thoughtfulness and humility will lead her to refrain from wearing "sexy" clothing or calling attention to herself with provocative behavior.

Gress: There is repeated mention in the book that a father should do all he can to keep a family together. Why is this so important, and what can men do to care for their daughters if they find themselves divorced or widowed?

Meeker: . . . [A]s a culture [we] have failed to teach boys to live courageously, which means to live with profound discomfort. In not being taught how to live, men have been failed.

All the psychology, pediatric, and medical

literature says divorce is at the top of the list of putting kids at risk for all high-risk behaviors. It is an enormous factor in kids' emotional, mental, and physical health. My job is to try to help fathers stick it out with difficult wives until their daughters are older. The longer they can wait, the better it is for kids. Kids need full cognitive skills to cope with the trauma of divorce, and men need to call upon courage to gut it out.

A father who is separated from his daughter must maintain as strong a connection as possible, which means big phone bills, letters, pressing his way into her life in a gentle but firm manner. Stick with her over the long haul. Even when the daughter pulls back, the father has to be the grown-up. If you get your feelings hurt, forget it, it's not about you. Don't take it personally, maintain your integrity and rely on God to give you the strength to persevere.

And angry mothers need to know that you can divorce your daughter's father, but she can't. She has emotional needs, no matter what damage has been done. Give her the right to have a relationship with her dad.

Bartlett: There is always hope! Even when earthly fathers fail, the Heavenly Father remains faithful. Even when earthly fathers despair and disappoint not only their children but themselves, the Perfect Man, Jesus Christ, remains the constant source of forgiveness and new life.

So, when you watch a father walk his daughter forward to meet her groom, when you see him place her hand in the hand of her young man, and you see the love in her eyes gaze first at dad and then turn to her husband—think on all these things.

(Part One of this article can be found in the spring 2008 edition of LifeDate. Interview excerpts from Zenit.org, 2/25/07. Used by permission.)



Every Day is Father's Day

Do we really need a national decree to pay homage to our fathers?

To Children, Young and Old:

God is not silent to us as children about our relationship to our fathers. One of the Ten Commandments is addressed to our relationship with our fathers. **“Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you”** (Deuteronomy 5:16 NKJV).

Our Father in heaven did not intend that we honor our fathers on just one day a year, for honoring our fathers is to be a life-long endeavor. Honoring our father means not back-talking, ignoring, or “diss-ing” (that is, dishonoring, disobeying, or disagreeing with him). Honoring means setting a high place in our hearts for our fathers and letting our words and actions reflect that position.

Commenting on the fourth commandment, the apostle Paul writes in Ephesians chapter 6, **“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother,’ which is the first commandment with promise: ‘that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth’”** (NKJV). It is youthful human nature to think of one’s father as out-of-touch and unacquainted with reality. With growth

and maturity most children learn to appreciate their fathers’ wisdom and experience. Whether you are five or fifty, this commandment speaks to you about how you are to treat your dad: with honor!

To Fathers:

Father’s Day is also an opportunity for you fathers to consider what God has to say to you in His Word. In the very next verse of Ephesians 6, Paul writes to you, **“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath,**

but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (v. 4 NKJV). It should be your goal to avoid provoking your children to anger and frustration. Instead your goal ought to be a heavenly one: bringing up your children in the training and admonition of the Lord!

After giving the Ten Commandments, the LORD had a directive to fathers, **“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently**

to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7 NKJV). God rests this work of training children in the Word primarily on the shoulders of you fathers. Carrying out Christ’s great commission to make disciples of all nations begins with you and your children. That’s right, mission work—right at home!

So how have you done? As a child have

Fathers . . . Daily seek to be faithful to your vocation as father.

You are important!

*“Faithful Fathers”
bulletin insert (see page 18)*



you honored your father? As a father have you been diligent in having devotions with your children and helping them with their catechism? While there are days when we may think we might get a passing grade—we must confess we have failed. As children we have failed to honor our fathers as God demands of us—with a loving and obedient heart. As fathers we have failed to train our children and discipline them with a loving heart.

Thanks be to God that we have a perfect Father who knows all our needs and well supplies them. God sent His Son to be the son we were not. Even while dying on the cross, Jesus kept the fourth commandment perfectly for us. Jesus followed the will of His heavenly Father throughout His life—even going so far as to give His life for the sins of the world because it was His Father’s will.

Let us as children and/or fathers repent of our failings. But let us also rejoice that we have a perfect Father in heaven. He, our loving Father, sent His Son to redeem us from all our failings. May the Spirit of God spur us on so that, in the love of Christ, we as children may honor our fathers every day—and that we as fathers may train up our children just as our Heavenly Father desires!

To such holy ends God help us!

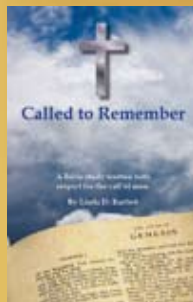
This article originally appeared in “The Lutheran Spokesman, June 2007. Reprinted with permission.

Needed: Involved & Committed Christian men!

- When a child leads the way in commitment to a church, 3½% of families follow.
- When a woman leads the way in commitment to a church, 17% of families follow.
- But, when a man leads the way in commitment to a church, 93% of families follow!
- Also, 42% of American men attended church regularly in 1992. But by 1997, only 28% of American men were attending church regularly.

(Lutheran Hour Ministries e-mail, 3/3/08)

BIBLE STUDY

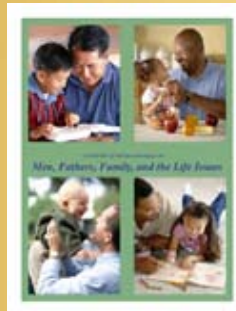


Called to Remember
– When men remember their role in God’s Story as protectors and servant-style leaders, the world becomes a safer place for women and children.

By Linda D. Bartlett.

Student Guide. Item 302BS. \$1.50 ea.

FATHERHOOD/FAMILY



Men, Fathers, Family, and the Life Issues features excellent articles on fatherhood, families, and marriage by authors Allan Carlson, Ph.D;

William A. Mahlow; Grace Kern; Dr. Jean Garton; Gary Thomas; David R. Carlin; and Rev. Edward Fehskens.
Item 300A. \$2.50 ea.



For Men Only – Do you know someone who is considering abortion? Many babies could be saved if the father would realize that his unborn baby about to be aborted is a living, growing human being. This brochure explains current abortion methods and complications.

A Scriptural insert by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb is also included.

Item 303T. \$0.25 ea.

Really, Truly Dead

by Rev. Kenneth R. Klaus



“But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water” (John 19: 33-34).

All that could be done for Zach Dunlap had been done.

After Zach’s all-terrain vehicle accident, the doctors had monitored his brain activity. Seeing nothing, the doctors declared Zach dead and asked the family to approve the taking of his organs so they might be transplanted into others.

After the family had agreed, they stopped in Zach’s room to express their final farewells. As a last test, a knife was scraped across

Zach’s foot and he moved. Yes, Zach who had been pronounced “dead,” was quite alive.

Zach has since then been released from the hospital and says for a dead man he is feeling “pretty good.” In case you’re wondering, he does confess to harboring a bit of bitterness toward the physician who pronounced him “dead.” Although he was unable to move or say anything, Zach says he heard everything that had been said about him.

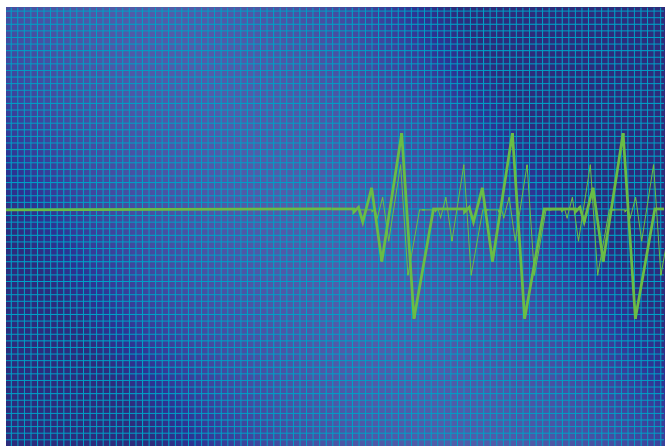
A great many people, reading Zach’s story carried last by the Associated Press, would say, “Ah, ha! If today’s modern tools and technology can’t always determine if a person is alive or dead, how can we be sure

Jesus really died on the cross? Maybe He was in bad shape like Zach. Maybe He was even taken down from the cross alive. Maybe He never really rose.”

Good questions.

This is why we should be thankful that the Holy Spirit anticipated our contemporary questions. That’s why He inspired John to write, “one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear and at once there came out blood and water.” That last part, about blood and water coming out describes a medical condition that only happens when the heavier parts of the blood have been separated from the lighter parts.

Two thousand years ago, John described



a condition modern medicine tells us only occurs when a person has been dead for a period of time. It does not happen when a person has fainted, is in a coma, or is unresponsive.

In short, the stab of a spear and not the light touch of a knife blade shows to any who will look, Jesus died on Calvary’s cross, and a resurrected Christ emerged from the borrowed tomb.

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, Your holy Word assures us that You have suffered and died. Now, as our risen Savior, You send Your Holy Spirit who shows us the Word that contains the truth that gives us eternal life. May we share that truth with a world that still delights in denying Christ crucified and risen. In Your Name. Amen.

From Lutheran Hour Ministries Daily Devotions, April 10, 2008. Used by permission. Rev. Kenneth R. Klaus has been “The Lutheran Hour” speaker since 2002.

Terri Schiavo Anniversary a Reminder to Speak Up For Life!

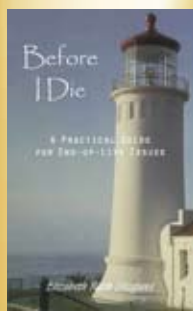
“It’s hard to believe three years have passed since the terrible euthanasia death of Terri Schiavo, a beloved daughter and sister whose husband won the legal right to kill her” wrote LifeNews.com editor Steve Ertelt on March 31.



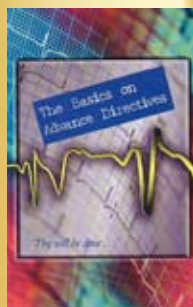
Following Terri’s death in 2005, Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, of Lutherans For Life, wrote:

“To say things like, ‘Well, I wouldn’t want to live like that.’ or ‘What kind of life is that?’ denies that our value comes from what God has done and not from what we are able to do. Such thinking denies that God is powerful enough and wise enough to give meaning and purpose to every life regardless of mental or physical condition. Who do we think we are to say that Terri Schiavo would have been ‘better off dead?’ **‘Do you question me about my children, or give me orders about the work of my hands?’** (Isaiah 45:11b NIV). God does not need our advice as to what gives value and purpose to a particular life. He gives value to every life because every life is the work of His hands (Psalm 139:13-14). He gives value to every life because every life is someone for whom Jesus paid the price of redemption (1 Corinthians 6:20). God is the author of life. God gives life meaning and purpose. God determines when His meaning and purpose for a particular life is complete . . .

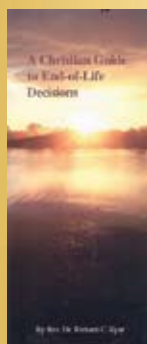
. . . God was “hiding” in the life of Terri Schiavo and He hides in the lives of those like her who have severe disabilities waiting to be glorified. We do not glorify the Lord of Life by killing such as these. We glorify Him by caring for and serving such as these. For whatever we do to these we are doing to Jesus Himself (Matthew 25:40).



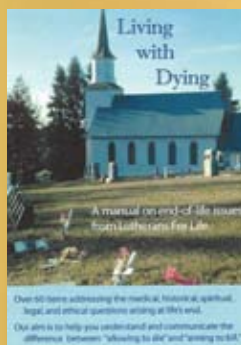
Before I Die - A Practical Guide for End-of-Life Issues by Elizabeth Skoglund, shares principles for the Christian at life’s end along with words of encouragement.
Item 809B. \$2.00 ea.



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.
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.

Personhood—The Heart of the Pro-Life Vision

by John Eidsmoe



We stand for the right to life, not simply because the state needs more people, but rather because each human being is a unique creation of God, endowed with personhood and the rights that attach to personhood from the moment of conception.

On April 25-26, I had the privilege of representing LFL at a symposium of national pro-life leaders in Atlanta, sponsored by Georgia Right to Life.

The immediate impetus of the symposium was the Georgia Human Life Amendment, by which Georgia would recognize in its state constitution that human personhood begins at conception and therefore the rights that attach to personhood begin at conception.

Robert Muise of the Thomas More Center contended that, even though efforts to pass the Georgia Human Life Amendment were unsuccessful in this session of the legislature, we should continue these efforts not only in Georgia but also across the nation. The amendment would mount a legal challenge to *Roe v. Wade*, and with the support of Justices Roberts, Scalia, Thomas, Alito, and possibly Kennedy, it is possible the Court would sustain the amendment as constitutional. Muise noted, “It’s always the right time to do the right thing,” and he closed by quoting Wayne Gretzky: “You miss 100 percent of the shots you don’t take.”



Joni Eareckson Tada gave a video greeting in which she emphasized that all human life is meaningful because all humans are created in God’s image. Her own highly productive life as a quadriplegic is a living testimony that God has a plan for each and every one of us and that He uses us in His service despite (or because of) our defects.

In my own presentation, I began by saying that as a military man and a martial artist, I know it is best to attack at your strong point against your opponent’s weak point. That’s why we should emphasize the personhood of the unborn child—because the evidence from

Scripture and medicine alike overwhelmingly demonstrates that the unborn child is a living human being. Justice Blackmun skirted this issue in *Roe v. Wade*. Instead, the legal debates have focused upon the state’s interest in the life of the unborn child and when that interest becomes compelling. But the state’s interest is a very frail reed upon which to rest our case. The state might argue, as Texas did in *Roe*, that it has a compelling interest

in the life of the unborn child, because that child might grow up to be a useful citizen, serving in the armed forces, the work force, and among the ranks of taxpayers. But in different circumstances state officials might argue that they have an interest in abortion because the unborn child may grow up to be a criminal or an economic drain upon society.

The only solid basis upon which we must rest our case is the personhood of the unborn child, created in God’s image and therefore endowed by our Creator with the unalienable right to life.

I also noted that conservatives have had mixed reactions to a national human life amendment: on the one hand, we want to oppose abortion, but on the other hand, we believe criminal jurisprudence should normally be left to the states. A state human life amendment should satisfy both concerns.

In speaking about personhood, I was also able to explain Luther's concepts of the two kingdoms, the church being the kingdom of the right and the state being the kingdom of the left, and the role that revelation and reason play in these two kingdoms. As Christians, we formulate our convictions about human personhood from the Word of God. But when we enter the public arena of the courtroom or the legislature, we need to be prepared to defend our position before unbelievers based upon logic and evidence.

A highlight of the conference was bioethicist and author Wesley Smith, who noted that various modern ethicists try to define a "human person" as an organism with minimum intelligence, awareness, self-control, memory of the past, consciousness of the future, concern for others, and ability to communicate. Depending upon what levels are set for these tests, almost anyone could be defined out of personhood.

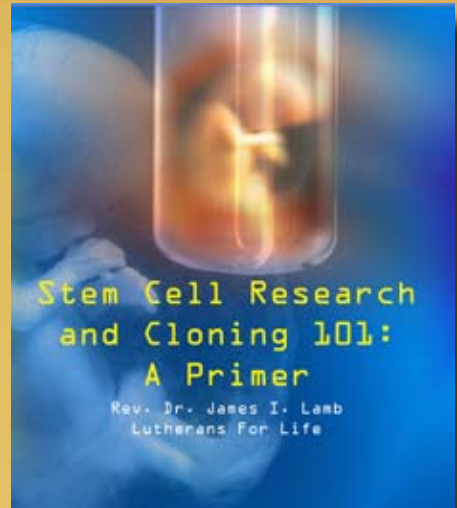
In his lecture on "Frankenscience," Smith spoke chillingly of the "transhumanists," those who want to practice cloning and other forms of genetic engineering to produce entirely new species of superhuman creatures, rendering mere humans as relics of an evolutionary past. He emphasized that we should not be intimidated into silence: "This is not a science debate; this is an ethics debate. Science can't tell us what is right or wrong . . . Science can't tell us whether human life has value."

It was a most stimulating weekend, which offered much food for thought, great inspiration, and direction for the future.

John Eidsmoe is a member of the Lutherans For Life Board of Directors.

DVD on Stem Cell Research!

This DVD has received excellent reviews!



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 . . . 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. (1 DVD per order.)



Free discussion guide online.
See Catalog/Bioethics.

www.lutheransforlife.org

Best-Selling Brochures . . .



*Understand
the Basics*

Stem Cell
Item 1000T.

Cloning
Item 1001T.

\$0.25 ea.

Fathers Still Forgotten

by Grace Kern

888-217-8679

www.word-of-hope.org



As a recent caller said this:

I will never forget how excited I was to tell my husband I was pregnant with our first child. I never expected him to break down in sobs as he remembered his real first child, the one he had aborted with a girlfriend in high school. Now four children later, my husband still seems to grieve that baby. I know he loves me and our children, but he can't seem to get past the abortion and I guess at times neither can I. I thought I was his first. We really need help.

For every woman who participates in an abortion, there is a man. Although men are less likely to seek recovery, they suffer many of the same emotional feelings as women.

Mike was a struggling college student when his girlfriend told him she was pregnant. Mike did what many in his situation have done, he told her to do what she felt was best. She was convinced her life would be ruined. "Neither of us wanted to be parents," he explains. "But I went to the clinic with her. I will never forget how her face looked when she came out of the abortion clinic. She never looked the same, something in her died along with our baby. I still remember the long ride home. We never spoke a word about it. It has been seventeen years and I still think about her and our baby when I pass the area of the clinic." Ultimately, guilt and shame led Mike to Word of Hope, where he learned about God's forgiveness.

David was 20 years old and had just joined the military when his girlfriend wrote to tell him she was pregnant. "I was scared, but excited. I wanted to marry her," David says. When he returned home after basic training,

David was informed by his girlfriend's father that he had taken his daughter Sarah for an abortion. Sarah's father told him he would no longer be allowed to see his daughter. David left. It has been ten years and he still can not stop thinking about her and his child. David says, "When I see a young pregnant woman I think about her. I let them both down. I was not there to protect her or my baby." David sought counsel from Word of Hope, where he learned about God's forgiveness and returned to his childhood church.

In these three cases, the men say what followed was regret, sorrow, and conviction.

They have been called "forgotten fathers," men stripped of their fundamental right to protect their unborn children. Their grief is not validated by a society that paradoxically demands accountability from the deadbeat dad, but scorns the one who wants his child to live.

"Abortion rewrites the rules of masculinity," says Dr. Vincent Rue, one of the nation's leading psychologists in post-abortion issues. "Whether or not the male was involved in the abortion decision, his inability to function in a socially prescribed manner leaves him wounded and confused."

Men are also bypassed legally. Like David, most men do not realize until they face an unplanned pregnancy that they have no rights and no legal recourse to protect their unborn child.

What prevents men from dealing with their past abortions?

First, men often don't know they are suffering because the symptoms of post-abortion stress seem unrelated to the abortion itself: inability to form trusting relationships, difficulty bonding with children, anger, risk taking, depression, suicidal feelings, panic attacks, and addictions. It is not uncommon that it may take up to ten years before men make the connection between their unhealthy behavior and an abortion.

For men to heal, they must:

Grieve: Men have been taught not to show their feelings. The result is that grown men have a difficult time expressing their own emotions. They need to cry and acknowledge that they have lost somebody who's dear to them. Many have never seen their father cry. Some have never seen another man cry. Combined with their fragile ego and lack of "emotional" role models, it is understandable why men don't seek recovery. However, men feel pain and grieve the loss just as women do.

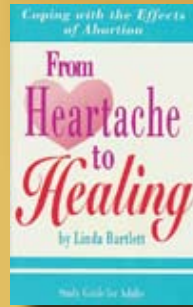
Forgive: It took David ten years and Mike seventeen years to fully grasp what had happened and to accept God's love and forgiveness.

Reconcile: After an abortion, 70 percent of relationships will end shortly after. Many men seek some sort of reconciliation with those involved. Mike contacted his former girlfriend and apologized for his role. David still has a strong need to find his girlfriend and tell her he is sorry for not protecting her.

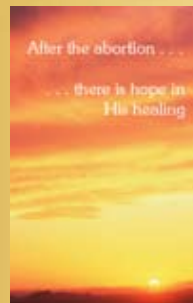
Accept this fact: I am a father. Until men begin to acknowledge that abortion has damaged their lives and do something about it, society, families, and the church will continue to suffer. For men and women alike, the feeling of emptiness may last a lifetime. Parents are parents forever, even of a dead child.

As we come to Jesus we are in truth no longer separated from our God. We are completely forgiven as if we never sinned. We have the privilege of experiencing how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. (Ephesians 3:18)

LINDA BARTLETT RESOURCES



From Heartache to Healing – Through a series of four lessons, Linda encourages individuals and congregations to consider the reality of abortion; its impact on the family, church, and society; and the ways in which the Church can minister to the needs of those who suffer abortion's effects. 64 pages. *Item 401BS. \$4.85 ea.*



After the Abortion There is Hope in His Healing offers hope to those who are struggling with an abortion decision. "Through Christ . . . you are set free to rejoice in the newness of life!" *Item 405B. \$1.00 ea.*

This brochure offers help in responding to those who have gone through an abortion, shares a word of hope, and offers suggestions for those who care.



The Secret Pain – For millions of American women, and for the men, grandparents, siblings, and friends in the lives of those women, abortion is not a debate—it is a loss. It is the loss of a son, a daughter, a grandchild. That's because motherhood and fatherhood—and even grandparenthood—begin at conception. *Item 405T. \$0.25 ea.*

FATHER'S DAY



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
Item 1107BI. **\$0.07 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.**

How do we reach pastors? Here is a resource to help!



How to Help a Shepherd Give Leadership outlines practical suggestions from members of the National Pro-Life Religious Council (and revised by Lutherans For Life) on ways to encourage pastors to speak up for life. There are a number of strategies that can be carried out including:

- Doctrinal Strategy
- Ministry Strategy
- General Strategy
- Educational Strategy
- Social Strategy
- Personal Strategy

This brochure is designed to help you get started thinking of ways to end the silence of the shepherds and then carry out the ideas. Item 1624. **\$0.25 ea.**

Back by popular demand!

The **In the Beginning** bulletin insert, based



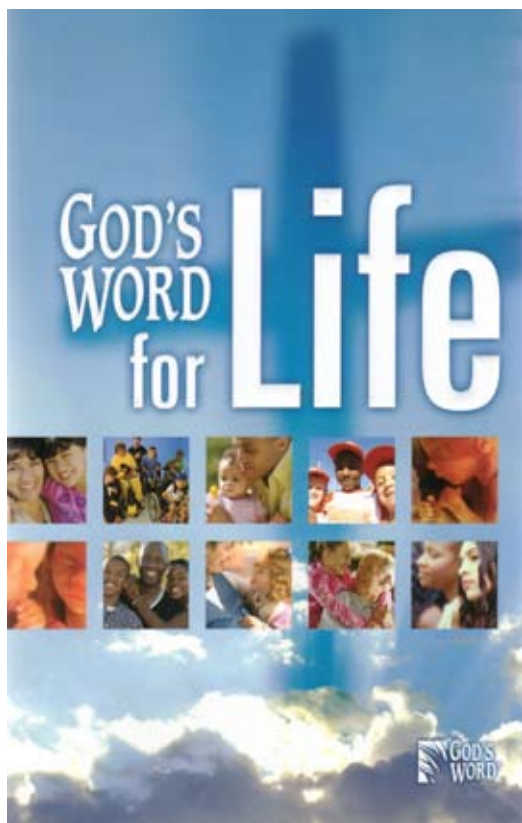
on Genesis 1:1-5 and John 1:1-5, focuses on the beginnings that give

value to every human life. We value life because God does!

Item 1100BI. **\$0.07 ea.**

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.*

GOD'S WORD for Life • www.lutheransforlife.org/gwfl.org



This exceptional study Bible can be used by every Christian involved in every aspect of the pro-life movement—including the hundreds 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.

Baby Saved from Abortion Because of *GOD'S WORD!*

Betty McGuire at the City Life Center in Minneapolis called to tell us that a woman, who thought she was calling an abortion clinic, got Betty's pregnancy center number by mistake.

She was persuaded to come and talk with counselors and after hearing what God's Word has to say about life (from *GOD'S WORD for Life*) she decided not to abort! Praise be to God.

The woman loved the Bible so much—she clutched it to her heart—Betty gave it to her to keep.

Paperback – *Item 1618*. **\$15.00 ea.**

Hardcover – *Item 1619*. **\$20.00 ea.**

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



**A Topical Index/Study Guide
Bookmark is included with each Bible.**

www.lutheransforlife.org/gwfl.htm

Churches in Britain have condemned the recent creation of human/animal hybrids.

The Church of Scotland, which had already announced its opposition to the practice, expressed regret and serious concern. It also regretted that the government's Human Fertilization and Embryology (HFE) bill would legalise research on hybrids. The Catholic bishops of England and Wales regretted that there had not been a debate in parliament and called for public discussion of the ethical issues. (*Christian Today, Daily Mail, 4/3; SPUC, 4/4*)

The Fundación Vida group in Spain plans to open a museum about abortion, claiming widespread ignorance of what the procedure entails.

Manuel Cruz said, "Showing the reality of abortion is not enough to end this inhumane practice," but added that abortion was, "just as evil as or worse than the Nazi holocaust. The thing is that very few pictures of the thousands of dead fetuses are shown, and abortion itself leaves women who have experienced it, completely unable to speak about it." (*CNA on Spero, 4/5; SPUC, 4/8*)

Patients in the Netherlands are allegedly being put into a coma with sedatives and left to die of dehydration.

An Erasmus university, Rotterdam, study found that the deaths of 1,800 people in 2005 involved so-called deep sedation. Wesley J Smith, an American lawyer, is quoted as saying that Dutch doctors seeking to euthanize patients were using the technique to avoid being present at the death. The practice is sometimes called "terminal sedation." (*LifeNews.com, 4/9; SPUC, 4/11*)

The Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly has approved a report from its equal opportunities committee which calls on 47 European states to allow unrestricted access to legal abortion and to make sex education for young people compulsory.



The SPUC's Patrick Buckley said: "This report, which is in favor of even more killing of unborn children, was rushed through. It represents an attack on the sovereignty of member states, by attempting to impose a policy on abortion, something for which the assembly has no legal or legitimate justification. Permissive abortion regimes do not protect the health of women. Countries where abortion is not permitted actually show substantially better healthcare for mothers and children." (*SPUC, 4/16, 4/21*)

India is to increase penalties for doctors who perform abortion for reasons of gender.

An estimated 10 million girls have been aborted over 20 years. (*Guardian, 4/24; SPUC, 4/25*)

The Irish Council for Bioethics has been criticized for approving research on human

IVF embryos.

Fr. Kevin Doran wrote that it had been wrong to talk in terms of giving rights to embryos, since such rights derived from their nature and were human rights which could not be granted. He also said the council was being utilitarian by suggesting that, while it was reluctant to permit the destruction of embryos, it might allow the practice if it was useful. (*Sunday Business Post, 4/27; SPUC, 4/29*)

Fathers should stay overnight in maternity wards with their newborn babies and the babies' mothers, according to a British group.

The Fatherhood Institute said there was research to suggest that such behavior was beneficial. The midwives' organization commented: "The midwife's primary role is to the mother and baby; however, we see the inclusion of the nuclear and extended family as key to supporting mothers and their children." (*Telegraph, Royal College of Midwives, 4/14; SPUC, 4/29*)

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

Teaching For Life Available Soon!

A unique, all-new, Gospel-centered, and positive way to help Lutheran school teachers apply God's Word to the life issues will be available this summer!

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, language arts, and more.

The goal is to make it as easy as possible for the teacher to use. In fact, says LFL's Executive Director Jim Lamb, Teaching For Life is "so easy to use we don't even call it a curriculum!"

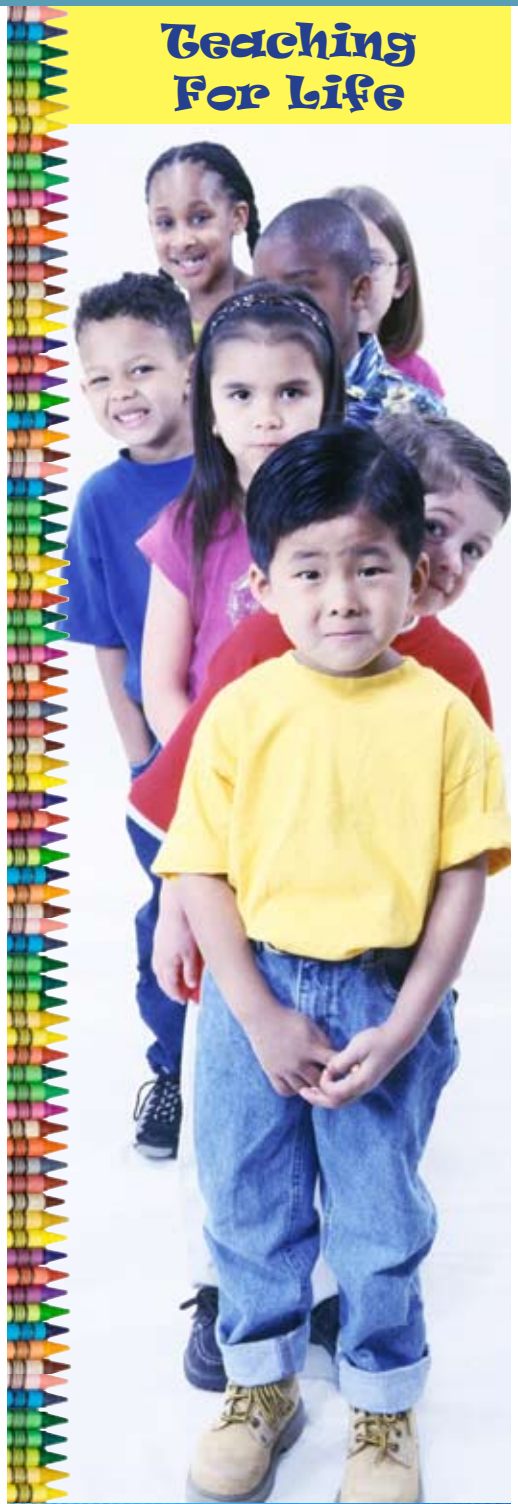


The entire **Teaching For Life** package includes 45 lessons for five grade levels (PK-K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8). It will come in a sturdy 8.5" x 11" full color tri-fold format, providing the teacher with all that is needed to teach a key life concept all month long in a variety of ways.

Each **Teaching For Life** package will also include a CD which provides additional resources, commentary, and teaching tools.

In April, samples of **Teaching For Life** were shared at the 2008 Lutheran Education Association Conference. The response from teachers was overwhelmingly positive!

Teaching For Life



For more on *Teaching For Life*, including sample PDFs, go to:

www.lutheransforlife.org

RENEWAL FOR LIFE Update



by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

Renewal For Life is LFL's initiative to inspire and equip Lutheran pastors and congregations to address the life issues with the Gospel as part of their ongoing ministry. It's renewal of the 3 R's:

RESPONSIBILITY

Since the life issues are spiritual issues, the responsibility to address them lies with the church.

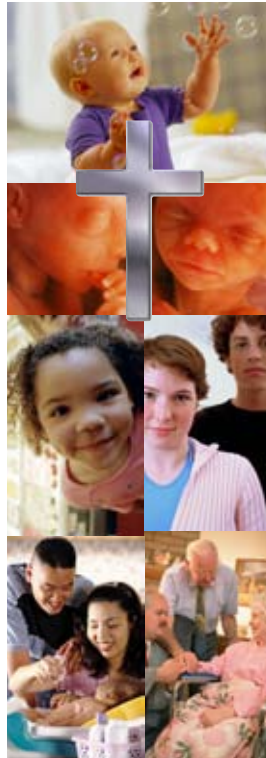
RELEVANCY

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the most relevant message in the world to address the life issues.

RESOURCES

Lutherans For Life will renew our efforts to provide resources to help accomplish the above.

Currently a pilot project is being conducted in two regions in Iowa. We met with pastors in January and February and asked them to have Life Advocates appointed within their congregations. In April we conducted our first training workshops for Pastors and Life Advocates. We had great speakers and topics:



Healing Broken Hearts—The Gospel and Post-Abortion Syndrome with Diane Schroeder, President of Lutherans For Life, and myself.

Connecting the Word of Life to the Life Issues in Preaching and Teaching. I was privileged to share this topic.

Life Issues and the Church Year with Rev. Dr. Arthur Just, Professor of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Connecting the Word of Life to the Life Issues in Preaching and Teaching and Renewal For Life Library Demonstration/Practical Ideas/What's Next? I was privileged to lead these two workshops.

The first very well-received April workshop was taped by a highly-regarded production company so these presentations can be used in subsequent workshops.

One problem was encountered with the workshop: it was not well attended! So we are evaluating the process to see how we can improve. That's what a pilot is for!

Life Issues in the Pew—An Overview of Pertinent Life Issues with Rev. Dr. Kevin Voss, Director of the Concordia Bioethics Institute, Concordia University, Mequon, Wisconsin.

Life Issues and the Two Kingdoms with Mr. Carl Schroeder, Private Practice Attorney, Chicago, Illinois.



Keep this initiative in your prayers and we will keep you updated.

2008 Conferences and Cruise

With no national LFL conference in 2008, you are encouraged to attend local and state LFL conferences:

South Wisconsin LFL Conference

9/27, Concordia University, Mequon

Speakers include Rev. Dr. Kevin Voss (“To Have a Child, or Not Have A Child, That is the Question” and “Assisted Reproductive Technologies”) and Dr. Richard Eyer (“Marriage is Like Dancing”) of the Concordia Bioethics Institute, and Diane Chadwick, president of LFL of Wisconsin.

\$10 per person, which includes lunch.

For more information go to:

www.lfl-wi.org, e-mail diane.chadwick@bfbcwi.com, or call 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. 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 or Linda Bartlett at lindabartlett@mchsi.com.

LFL of Missouri State Conference

October (Watch for the date and location in the fall 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.lfiofmo.org, call 314-631-9240, or e-mail lfiofmo@yahoo.com.

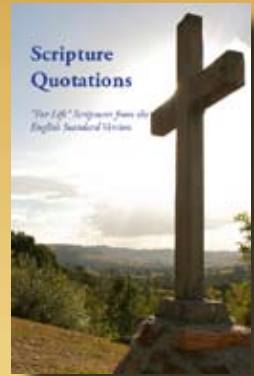
This booklet offers an easy way to share numerous For Life Scriptures!

Scripture

Quotations –

Quotes (from the English Standard Version) show:

- God is the Creator of all Life
- Conception is God's Gift
- God is the Creator of the Unborn
- Pre-Natal Life has Special Value and Stands in Relation to God
- Jesus Loves the Little Children
- God Does Not Justify Abortion or "Mercy Killing" in Cases of Rape, Incest, or Birth Defects
- Life and Death Belong to the Province of God
- Consequences of Practicing or Ignoring Injustice
- Obey the Voice of God, Not the Ways of Men
- Healing and Hope for Wrong Decisions
- God's Timing, Presence, and Hope in Human Suffering and Death



Item 204T. **\$1.50 ea.**



Abortion Is . . . – Linda Bartlett explores how, according to Mother Teresa, abortion is “the greatest destroyer of peace” in our world today. An LFL contribution form is included as part of the brochure.

Item 119T. **FREE**

Note: Limit 50 copies.

Finding the Real Cure

by Karen Frohwein
Director of Development



Last summer I had a conversation with some pro-life Lutherans regarding the work of Lutherans For Life. We talked about applying God’s Word to the life issues. We talked about the resources LFL produces to help connect God’s Word to issues like abortion, euthanasia, and embryonic stem cell research. We talked about the need to have pastors connect the Gospel to the life issues from the pulpit. Then the topic of funding came up and I was told, “We give to ‘right to life’ because that’s where the real work gets done.”

I have to admit I was pretty frustrated by that statement. I don’t disagree with the work of other “right to life” groups or think they shouldn’t be funded. Changing legislation and educating the public are certainly worthy efforts. Anyone who works in a caring pregnancy center can tell you the difference an ultrasound makes or the importance of parental notification laws.



Don’t we all want to see a cure for the ills of society? Isn’t finding the cure where the real work is being done—and where we should focus our energies and our funds?

Finding a cure took on a whole new meaning for me in the last few months, as I was diagnosed with breast cancer in February. I became a member of this “pink ribbon” club. Everywhere I turn I am inundated by efforts to raise research funds to find a cure for cancer. Certainly a worthy effort—but is that where the real work gets done?

What if man never finds a cure for cancer—or abortion is never made illegal?

Getting through today as a cancer patient—or a post-abortive woman or a pregnant teen—it is sometimes hard to think about the future. If we look at our own situation right now, where is our hope?

Don’t despair! The real work has been done! The real cure for life’s problems has already been found! The “real work” to save lives and change hearts was done by our Savior on the cross. The Gospel applies to each of our lives right where we are today!

I’m reminded of Jesus talking to the disciples on a road to Emmaus. They, too, were looking for answers—for cures—now that Jesus had died on the cross. They thought He was the One, but now it was back to waiting for the Savior to come.

All that time and effort—in human terms, was it worth it? Should they have been putting their energies into finding a man-made cure for the world’s problems? Would they go back to their “real work” now?

Do you remember what Jesus said to them? **“How foolish you are! You are so slow to believe everything the prophets said!”** (Luke 24:25 *GOD’S WORD for Life*) How foolish we are when we see the need for the life-saving message of the Gospel but believe the real work is happening somewhere else!

I really don’t like having cancer. The world would have me ask why. Why me? Right now the doctors believe they have removed all the cancer from my body, but it might come back. Maybe there will be a cure by then! Perhaps if I buy several pink ribbons and participate in some cancer walks, I will be cured! Is it wrong to do these things? Perhaps not, if you research where your funds are going before you donate. But is that where I should put my focus?

As a Christian, the real question is “why not me?” I’m no different than anyone else—I deserve hardship as much as any sinful being.

But, is there a cure?

As a baptized child of God, I know that I have already been cured by Christ, regardless of what happens to my physical body. I receive healing through Word and Sacrament



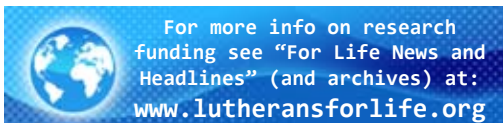
regularly. I cling to those gifts and as I look around me, I see many people struggling who need that cure. There is “real work” to be done in proclaiming the For Life message of the Gospel!

Having cancer, or an unplanned pregnancy, or a debilitating illness isn't God's work. God's work gives us real hope in times of real crisis. God comes to us with the cure because of Jesus' real work on the cross. Yes, there are many pro-life organizations doing good work in the world. If their work is God-pleasing, there is nothing wrong with supporting them. But prayerfully consider the real work of Lutherans For Life when you decide where to invest your gifts.

Consider these words of Jesus to His disciples that first Easter:

“Scripture says that the Messiah would suffer and that he would come back to life on the third day. Scripture also says that by the authority of Jesus people would be told to turn to God and change the way they think and act so that their sins will be forgiven” (Luke 24:46-47a *GOD'S WORD for Life*).

Scripture tells us of the Real Work—for the real Cure. **“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus”** (Hebrews 12:1b-2a).



There are many ways you can support LFL. Regardless of the size of your gift, you can make a difference now and in the future.

Ways to Give

Online . . . through a secure internet connection. Just *Click and Pledge™*. You will have the option of becoming a member of Lutherans For Life, giving an additional gift, or giving a non-member contribution.

By mail . . .

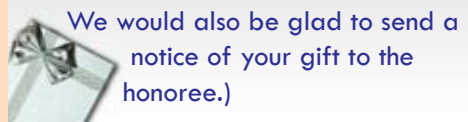
by sending your check, made payable to “Lutherans For Life,” using the reply envelope found in each issue of *LifeDate*.



(You may also call 888-364-LIFE to contribute by credit card.)

With Memorial Day and Father's Day and coming up, you may wish to give in tribute to a special person.

(If using the enclosed envelope, just list the name of the honoree.)



Please contact Karen Frohwein at the LFL Life Center to find out more about ways you can share your gifts and change your neighbors' lives (888-364-LIFE; kfrohwein@lutheransforlife.org).

Whether or not you are able to give at this time, please keep Lutherans For Life in your prayers.

No Degree of Separation



by Rev. Thomas V. Aadland

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” (Ephesians 2:19).

The popular television series *Lost* has captured the imaginations of over 16 million viewers. It portrays the amazingly interwoven lives of those who survive the crash of Oceanic Airlines Flight 815 on a remote and mysterious tropical island. The ongoing drama is based in part on the theory of centrality, or “small world phenomenon.”

Originally expressed by Hungarian mathematician Paul Erdős, the theory and its terms were launched into the everyday lexicon when American playwright John Guare wrote his play, *Six Degrees of Separation* (1990). The idea is that, if a person is one step away from each person he or she knows and two steps away from each person who is known by one of the people he or she knows, then everyone is an average of six “steps” away from each person on earth.

There can be no such “theory of separation” in the Body of Christ. Believers in Christ of every time and place are far more closely and wonderfully connected to one another than we can ever fathom. **“You are all one in Christ Jesus”** (Galatians 3:28). The mystery is too deep for our minds to grasp. In Christ, we meet people who are already brothers and sisters to us in the one family of God, the “one, holy, Christian and apostolic Church,” as confessed in the Nicene Creed. In Christ, we are never lost and never alone. As fellow redeemed sinners, our prayers carry and support one another. We know the fellowship

of the crucified, risen, and reigning Lord. In Christ, it is an understatement and banal to say, “It’s a small world after all,” for we belong to one another by an amazing grace that has united us with Him and, in Him, to one another. This is a reality both to be believed and experienced.

I was privileged to serve on the Board of Directors for LFL these past five years. It has been my joy to work closely with brothers and sisters in Christ in the one mission, message, and manner that define this ministry. Working alongside richly and diversely gifted people in one spirit of endeavor together has seemed to me a foretaste of heaven.

As in any organization, the Board traffics in subcommittees and task forces, periodic performance reviews and reports, analysis and planning, agendas and minutes noting decisions made. But it also devotes its attention to the study of the sacred Scriptures, prays and worships together as occasion permits. Our work calls forth the best each has to offer. And each is needed.

Today, as I prepare for a new ministry and a new adventure, I am struck anew by the rich tapestry of intimate and familial interconnectedness in our Savior. I have been raising support in order to teach systematic theology the next two years at Matongo Lutheran Theological College for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya:

www.projecttimothy-kenya.org

I know again the joy of interdependence and our interconnectedness and that none of us acts or serves alone.

Service through Lutherans For Life provides a rich experience of blessings given to us in the Body of Christ. Renewed For Life in Christ, we are granted opportunities to make an impact for good now and enjoy relationships granted us eternally.



Be Part of Renewing the Church!



by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

- Do you want to be part of something that will impact Lutheran congregations with regard to the life issues in a way never done before?
- Do you want to be part of something that will renew the congregation's **responsibility** to address the life issues?
- Do you want to be part of something that will renew the **relevance** of the Gospel as it applies to these issues?
- Do you want to be part of something that renews and focuses **resources** to help and equip congregations as never before?

Help launch RENEWAL FOR LIFE!

It's that time of year when we give people an opportunity to express their commitment to Lutherans For Life by considering either Annual or Sponsor membership.

Members receive:

- **a membership card,**
- **free materials twice a year,**
- **a discount on our national conference,**
- **and an opportunity to support a local LFL chapter and/or state affiliate through our remittance program.**

If you choose to be a Sponsor member, where you give a gift each month, you will also receive a monthly letter from me with some devotional thoughts and updates on

what's happening at the National Life Center. As either Annual or Sponsor members, you'll be part of a renewal process!

RENEWAL FOR LIFE is LFL's initiative to renew the **3 R's**—**RESPONSIBILITY, RELEVANCY,** and **RESOURCES.** (See page 22 for an update on the pilot workshop.) Your membership will help us renew within Lutheran congregations the **responsibility** they have to address the life issues. You will help us renew for them the **relevancy** of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it speaks to the life issues. You will help us expand the amount of **resources** LFL provides to equip congregations to assume their responsibility and apply the Gospel to these issues. This is a new and exciting outreach effort and we need your help to make it happen!

So please take the time to consider how you can best help LFL accomplish this mission. By the grace of God and the support of His faithful people, we will continue sharing God's **For Life** message and impacting Lutheran congregations in a whole new way!



Here are several ways to become a member:

- Use the *LifeDate* reply envelope.
- Join online at our web site.
- Call in your credit card contribution to 888-364-LIFE.

If you would rather not make the commitment of membership, you can still help bring renewal to the church regarding the life issues with a gift of any size.



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).

July 6 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost

“Wretched man that I am!” (Romans 7:24a)
This cry comes not only from those who have done terrible sins like adultery or abuse or abortion. It comes from us all for “nothing good” dwells in our sinful flesh. (7:18) But the Holy Spirit produces another cry when we seek deliverance from this body of death. “Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (7:25a).

July 13 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Cares concerning life issues can be “thorns” that choke God’s Word. (Matthew 13:22) One of the tasks of the Church is to connect God’s life-giving Word to these issues. Then it will bear fruit and God will accomplish His will through that Word. (Isaiah 55:10-13)

July 20 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

What hope for Christians who suffer! When we are too weak to pray or do not know what to pray or just do not feel very much like praying, the “Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God” (Romans 8:27b). We wait in patience for God’s will to be accomplished and for the ultimate redemption of our bodies. (8:23)

July 27 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

“Jesus loves me this I know for my circumstances tell me so.” That’s probably not how you learned the song! But sometimes we live as if we learned it that way, as if God’s love ebbs

and flows depending upon what is going on in our lives. Not so! “The Bible tells us so!” God’s Word points to His Son on the cross. “There is the assurance of My love and that nothing can ever separate you from that love” (Romans 8:31-39).

August 3 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Feed thousands of people with five loafs of bread and two fish? That’s impossible—unless you give it to Jesus. (Matthew 14:13-21)
There are no impossible situations where the Spirit of Christ is not at work in and among His people displaying His overflowing grace. Give it to Jesus!

August 10 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

We do not have to wait until we are sinking in the midst of the storms to acknowledge the power and presence of God as our Savior. (Matthew 14:28-33) A crucified, risen, and ascended Jesus assures us of His power and presence to enable us to avoid faithless choices.

August 17 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

“Foreigners” (Isaiah 56:6), “outcasts” (56:8), a “Canaanite woman” (Matthew 15:21-28), “Gentiles” (Romans 11:13), “disobedient” (11:30)—the list of those to whom God shows mercy in today’s readings is like a “Who’s Who” of rejects. Isn’t that good news? Jesus excludes no one for any reason from His grace!

August 24 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

The world presents conformity (Romans 12:2) as being easy. For example, the “easy” way out of a crisis pregnancy is abortion. The “easy” way out of pain and suffering is suicide or assisted suicide. In Christ, God transforms the



Christian to think differently. Minds renewed in Christ do not look for the “easy” way but God’s way, that which is “good and acceptable and perfect” (12:2c).

August 31 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Amazingly, the word “pro-life” evokes a negative reaction. Pro-lifers are portrayed as people who break laws, bomb clinics, and shoot abortionists. Paul portrays them correctly. They “Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good” (Romans 12:9). But they do not fight evil with evil. They seek to “overcome evil with good” (12:21). The Good News of life and new life in Jesus is, after all, the most positive and powerful pro-life message that exists!

September 7 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

The greatest are the weakest. That’s Jesus’ message to His disciples in Matthew 18:1-6. To enter the kingdom of heaven, one must become like a little child—weak, vulnerable, unable to help himself. To welcome a child is to welcome the most vulnerable. To welcome the most vulnerable is to welcome Jesus. (18:5) To fail to do so brings eternal consequences. (18:6-9) We oppose abortion, not just because those vulnerable children are precious, but because they are precious to Jesus!

September 14 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

God would have us forgive each other “from your heart” (Matthew 18:35). When terrible sins are involved such as abuse or incest, it is no easy manner to forgive, maybe it even seems impossible. The same is true when trying to forgive ourselves when we have committed some horrible sin like abortion for example. The starting point for forgiveness in all situations is not what we should do but what God in Christ has done for us. Only His complete forgiveness can give us peace as we strive to forgive others.

September 21 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

From Paul’s perspective, it was “far better” to depart and be with Christ. (Philippians 1:23) From God’s perspective it was “more necessary” that he remain in the flesh. (1:24) It is okay to join Paul and desire to be with Christ. But we must never hasten that departure. As long as God gives life, God gives that life meaning and purpose. Christ is honored, not because of what we are able to do, but because of what He does through us.

September 28 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Christians have a responsibility as cleansed children of God to “shine as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:15c). We live “in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation” (2:15b). The devaluing of life and the demeaning of marriage stand out as particularly twisted. We can make a difference because the light we shine does not emanate from us but from the “word of life” (2:16).



Life News bulletin inserts help keep your congregation informed on life issues every month!

To subscribe call 888-364-LIFE.

\$5.00 per 100 copies/ per month.



8 Weeks, 4 Days

by *Diane E. Schroeder*
National LFL President



The ultrasound picture taken for one of our clients at the pregnancy center said “8 weeks, 4 days.” As I looked at the tiny head, stubby arms, and short torso, I was overwhelmed with emotion for this baby was no more. The mother had an abortion the week before. She already had one child by another man. That now grown child also had had a child—and none of the men stayed around to help with the children. The mother who had the abortion knew that the father of this baby would not stick around either—why would he be different? None of them had before. So she aborted her baby. But even worse, this father never even had the chance to demonstrate if he would stay around and be a father—she didn’t bother to tell him she was pregnant.

We often hear stories at the pregnancy center of men abandoning their women and their unborn children. The men say, “you have to have an abortion; you’ve got to go through with it.” Or we hear, “I will support her in any decision she makes,” which is a euphemism for doing nothing.

What has happened to our culture? There was a time when men were expected to step up to the plate and be responsible for their actions. Men were expected to marry the mother of their child if they were pregnant outside of wedlock, but the advent of radical feminism, the sexual revolution, and abortion has changed all that.

Bernard Nathanson, one of the founders of NARAL (National Abortion Rights Action

League), has stated that the words, “her decision,” were used at the beginning of the pro-abortion movement because it was to be “her problem.” This was a subtle shift that discreetly separated the man not only from any part in the pregnancy decision, but from any responsibility for the role he played in that pregnancy.

Feminism compounded the problem by confusing the roles of men and women and redefined the word “support.” Pregnant women now sit in our country’s abortion clinics waiting for their men to rescue them. They wait for their Prince Charming to whisk them away, telling them, “I’ll take care of you and

the baby; you don’t have to go through with the abortion.” But men have been carefully taught by radical feminism that expressing any opinion in a pregnancy is inappropriate, so they respond by seeing their role as affirming any decision the woman makes, technically abandoning her.

Men have been told by our abortion culture that they have no say in a pregnancy or the life of their child. The decision to carry the baby is the woman’s alone. We should not be surprised that

men, who traditionally have been protectors of mothers and children, have responded to the abortion culture by walking away and abandoning their women and children.

But not all men abandon their unborn children. Many do step up to the plate, offering support for their children. There are others who want to protect their offspring, but are told they have no say. A grieving post-abortive father writes, “I still don’t quite know why your mother aborted you. I did all in my power to convince her to have you. She angrily told me she wanted both you and me out of her life. She got her wish.”

“Encourage young men to use good judgment. Always set an example by doing good things. When you teach, be an example of moral purity and dignity . . . After all, God’s saving kindness has appeared for the benefit of all people.”
Titus 2:6,11

GOD’S WORD for Life

There is a great need in our society for men to be men. Frederica Mathewes-Green, in her book *Real Choices* (Multonmah Books, 1994), describes the role of the pregnancy center as building “an artificial husband.” She relays the story of a counselor at a center answering a hotline call and speaking with a woman considering abortion. After reviewing what the center had to offer in the way of support, the counselor asked the woman a summary question: “Tell me—when you imagine yourself continuing the pregnancy and having this baby, what do you need the most?” The woman laughed: “Honey, I need a man!”

What can we do as LFLers to be countercultural and really make a difference?

Educate: Call on your pastor and congregation to educate both men and women within your congregation on the biblical roles of men and women. LFL has materials to help!

Encourage: Point to Christ as the source of forgiveness and hope. Ask godly husbands and fathers to reach out and mentor younger men in your congregation or community.

Example: Within your own family make sure that your sons know what it means to be a godly man and his role as both protector and provider for his family. Live it!



Hurting from Abortion?

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can help.*

888-217-8679

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Our Mission . . . To witness to the sanctity of human life, through education, based on the Word of God. LFL has 13 state federations, 150 local chapters, and 189 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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