

# LifeDate

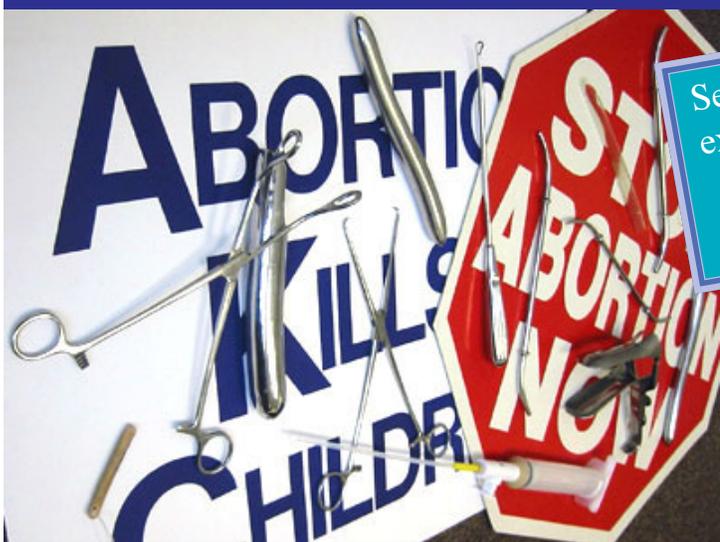


A quarterly journal of  
life issue news and commentary  
from National Lutherans For Life

SUMMER 2004

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

## Defending the Right to Choose?



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**GOD'S WORD**  
For Life!

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## Whitewashing Abortion in the Church

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

Christians say it too. “I’m personally opposed to abortion, but . . .” A lack of understanding of what abortion is and what abortion does leads to such thinking. One of the reasons for the lack of understanding is that many in the Church whitewash the truth about abortion. Some do it actively and whitewash abortion with religiously nice sounding words. Others do it passively and whitewash abortion with religious silence.

God’s people have been led astray by whitewashing before. **“Because they lead my people astray, saying, ‘Peace,’ when there is no peace, and because, when a flimsy wall is built, they cover it with whitewash”** (Ezekiel 13:10). Nebuchadnezzar was about to lay siege to Jerusalem. But God’s prophets did not want to face this terrible reality. They refrained from sharing a message they knew the people would not like to hear. So they would **“prophesy out of their own imagination”** (13:2) and **“follow their own spirit”** (13:3). They backed up their pleasant words by avoiding unpleasant action. **“You have not gone up to the breaks in the wall to repair it”** (13:5). These prophets were in effect saying, “All is well. Our defenses are fine. There is nothing to worry about. Let’s talk about something pleasant.”



But all was not well. The results of the whitewashing were deadly. **“By lying to my people, who listen to lies, you have killed those who should not have died”** (13:19). Because of their lies the righteous were “disheartened” and the wicked were “encouraged” (13:22).

All is not well around the walls of God’s Church today. Abortion is more than a medical procedure with which we

might have some problems under certain situations. Abortion is a great evil that lays siege to and attacks the very heart of the God-given value of human life. It attacks God’s authorship of life. Abortion destroys and kills with great frequency, for the most fickle of reasons, and in horrifying ways. Abortion leaves in its battlefield the comfortless cries of those wounded by the choice they made. (Please see the accompanying article *Defending the Right to Choose* on pages 5-7.)

For the Church and the leaders of the Church to whitewash this cruelty by calling it “good” is a blasphemous evil. For the Church and the leaders of the Church to whitewash this cruelty by ignoring its implications and fearing the consequences of dealing with its realities is an alarming display of faithlessness. Whitewashing abortion leads to the death of “those who should not have died.” Whitewashing abortion leads to the wicked being “encouraged.” Whitewashing abortion leads the righteous—those Christians struggling in despair with an abortion decision—to be “disheartened.” They never hear the cleansing blood of Jesus applied to their sin.

Abortion is more than a controversial social issue. Abortion is a great evil. Abortion is laying siege to and attacking God and His Church. But, as with all such attacks, abortion provides opportunity for great faithfulness. Abortion provides opportunities to go **“up to the breaks in the wall to repair it.”** Abortion provides opportunities to share the truth about the God-given value of life. Abortion provides opportunity to proclaim a “peace” that the world cannot have or understand. It is peace with God through Jesus Christ. This peace reigns even in the midst of difficulties. This peace motivates making good choices. This peace comforts when bad choices have been made.

God’s assurance to the besieged people of Jerusalem is the same assurance His people have today, **“I will save my people”** (13:23). We do not have to turn to death. We have a living Savior. We do not have to turn to despair. We have a living Savior. There is only one “whitewashing” we need be involved in. **“These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”** (Revelation 7:14).

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## Mysterious Work

by Linda D. Bartlett

God works in mysterious ways. Human beings that we are, however, we usually don't see what great work He is doing . . . until it is accomplished. That's how my personal adventure with Lutherans For Life has been. In 1980, I had no idea what this ministry was all about, but by 1981, I was serving as president of our new local chapter and attending the first national convention in Milwaukee. In 1985, I was part of a small group of Iowans who were inspired to federate LFL of Iowa. You know how it is. Every part of the body is called to do a particular job. I found myself serving as President, and Jan Ebert found herself serving as the convention coordinator for the 1986 National LFL Convention in, you guessed it, Iowa.

Sitting at the national board table was a privilege, not because I was rubbing elbows with "famous" people, but because I was praying and visioning with what I have always described as the most Word-loving people I've ever had the privilege of working beside. In fact, when I take a good, long look at LFL – at the chapter leaders and life ministry coordinators, the federation presidents, and the national board – I see people of courage, but not the kind of courage the world speaks of. It is the courage of Peter and John, two unschooled, ordinary men who were recognized by nothing other than this: they had been with Jesus (Acts 4:13).

One day, I found myself in the position of president on the national level. No one but my husband knows it, but I used to leave for board meetings with mixed emotions. I looked forward to meeting with my "other family" but couldn't decide whether to laugh or cry at my own inadequacies. I don't need to tell most of you that leadership is a strange thing. Leadership, according to God, is actually servanthood. It is also very humbling. I am thankful that it is not God's plan for an organization to exist because of one person or to depend on one person. Instead, God brings together a variety of men and women He has chosen for a specific time in order to meet a specific need. There were occasions when I remember wondering what, dear God, is happening? But, as He always does with His creation, God was working in mysterious ways, His wonder to perform!

About two years ago, I was motivated to tell the board that it was time for me to step away – not from LFL, but from the role of president. Because I was honestly surprised to hear myself say the words, I trusted that the Spirit was at work. In the months that have passed, God has affirmed this decision in countless ways. There is so much I'd like to share

with you, but suffice it to say that God is doing His thing! It appears He has been preparing me and giving me a heart for a Titus 2 ministry. (In fact, I am writing this column just after hosting a Titus 2 bridal shower in my home.) Perhaps there will be future opportunities to "visit" with you about this outreach.

Those of you who attended the national convention in Omaha have heard some of this, but what you have been waiting for is the answer to a very important question: Who is the



Diane Schroeder (l) with Linda Bartlett

new president? It is my joy to tell you that she is a long-time LFL leader that many of you know and trust. Once again, God has been at work, this time encouraging the board to elect Diane Schroeder. I am excited! I have every reason to trust that Diane – a faithful and servant-style woman – has been placed in this particular leadership role for this particular time in LFL's history. Diane and I have walked a long walk together. We have worked well together. Only God could pair up a street-smart city girl (that's Diane) with a trusting small town girl (that's me) to go out into the pro-life mission field. I have every confidence that you will appreciate Diane's leadership as she works with the board and provides wise counsel to Dr. Lamb.

Please remember Diane and the board in your prayers. Remember Dr. Lamb and the staff at the Life Center in your prayers. And, remember yourselves in prayer! For you, too, are chosen by God to humbly serve in a not-so-popular-but-very-real mission field. Thank you for allowing yourselves to be instruments of truth in a deceptive world; for being candles of light in a darkening culture; for being, not just hearers, but doers of the Word. May you, like Peter and John, be recognized as having been with Jesus.

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## Transitions

by *Diane E. Schroeder*  
*President, National Lutherans For Life*

In February of 2004, Lutherans For Life elected their third president in 25 years of history. I am most honored to be that individual entrusted with serving Lutherans For Life in that capacity. I have been involved in LFL since 1985 when my husband, Carl, and I began the process of forming the DuPage County Chapter of Lutherans For Life in Illinois. With the help of Dale Wetherell from the southern part of the state, Lutherans For Life of Illinois was formed in 1987. I

was elected president of LFL of Illinois and served in that position for 14 years. Due to my duties with Illinois I have been involved in the national board for many years and recently completed serving as treasurer. In 1989, Linda Bartlett, Grace Kern, and I saw the need for a Lutheran healing ministry to women who have had abortions, and Healing Hearts (now **Word of Hope**) was born. My involvement with

Lutherans For Life is not just a job or an opportunity for service, rather it is part of who I am. God led Carl and me to a deeper understanding of the value of life through our experience with infertility and adoption. Our four adopted children, Michael, 21; Elizabeth, 20; Paul, 18; and Rebekah, 14, are truly gifts given to us from the bounteous hand of our God who creates, redeems, and preserves all life.

Lutherans For Life has been blessed in its 25 years of history with presidents gifted in speaking, teaching, and writing. Jean Garton served for 17 years organizing, heightening awareness, speaking, writing, and prodding a reluctant church to view abortion not as a political issue, but as an assault on God's gift of life. Linda Bartlett served for nine years, expanding on that base, leading LFL to be a mature organization, and overseeing LFL as it addressed an increasing number of life issues: euthanasia, physician-assisted suicide,

fetal-tissue transplants, cloning, and more. The board of LFL has recognized that now is the time for a different sort of president, one more organizationally minded with different gifts, an individual who can lead Lutherans For Life in obtaining resources and developing goals as we move forward into our 26<sup>th</sup> year of proclaiming the message of LIFE! That is where my strengths lie, and my responsibilities as President of LFL will focus on development, goals, strategic planning, and board management. Dr. Lamb, Linda, and our new Director of Outreach, Ed Szeto, are all available to be in the field, teaching and speaking about the ministry of Lutherans For Life.

In April the board started the process of strategic planning. This is a concept somewhat new to LFL. It involves an in-depth view of ourselves obtained from a variety of people, those involved with LFL in some fashion and those who are

not. The goal of this process will be to ascertain if LFL is fulfilling the needs of the church we desire to serve. LFL has grown tremendously. We now have an executive director and six staff people, own the Life Center building, and have a budget over \$500,000. God has blessed us with stability and resources. Now is the time to take a long look at our purpose, mission, and vision; to reevaluate and prioritize our activities in



**The Schroeder family in 2003: (l-r) Diane, Rebekah, Elizabeth, Paul, Michael, Carl**

order to better serve our Lutheran people.

As we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at our national convention in November with the theme **25 Years For Life**, we have much to be thankful for. We have been blessed with leadership and resources that have allowed LFL to grow to be a powerful, Biblical pro-life voice and resource to Lutherans. I wish I could say that our job was done, but you and I know the reality of our culture. Satan keeps on destroying life and telling lies to our people. Now it is time for LFL to again move forward and work to fulfill our vision statement "**To be a powerful, Biblical pro-life voice and resource to Lutherans and, through them, transform society.**" God is faithful, and I'm confident that He will bless our efforts. Please continue to pray for LFL, our staff and leadership and our church and country. I would especially ask for your prayers for me as I assume this new role. May God continue to bless the work you do in His name.

## Defending the Right to Choose? Know the Facts

### Introduction

“I like pizza because pizza is my favorite food.” Defending the goodness of pizza requires little more than such a statement! A successful defense of a subject requires knowledge of that subject beyond how you might feel about it.

Defending the phrase “a woman’s right to choose” requires knowledge. It requires knowledge of *what* is being chosen. Everyone knows that this phrase is not referring to a woman’s right to choose a new dress or new shoes. It refers to choosing an abortion. Defending the “right to choose” requires knowledge of abortion. The purpose of this article is to help people understand *what* defending the “right to choose” involves.

### Definition

How about a little Latin? Abortion comes from two Latin words, *ab – oriri*. *ab* means “away from.” If something is **ab**-normal, it is “away from” the norm. We get the word “Orient” from *oriri*. The Orient is in the east where the sun rises. *Oriri* means to “arise” or “appear.” *Aboriri*, therefore, means “away from appearing” or “disappear.” Abortion is often defined as the “termination of a pregnancy.” There are only two ways a pregnancy can be terminated—the “appearing” of the child at birth or the “disappearing” of the child before birth. The choice of abortion causes the “disappearing” of an unborn child.

### Abortion Methods

Defending the “right to choose” requires knowledge of how this “disappearing” takes place. The common methods used are listed below.

**Suction Abortion:** The majority of all surgical abortions use this method. It is used during the first three months of pregnancy. A tube is inserted into the uterus. The tube is connected to a suction device 27 times more powerful than your home vacuum cleaner. The child and his or her placenta are sucked through this tube into a collection bottle. The remains are examined to insure all the parts are there.

**Dilation and Curettage (D&C):** This method is used between 10 and 12 weeks into the pregnancy when the child is getting too big to be suctioned through the tube. The cervix is dilated so that a long handled instrument called a curette can be inserted. The curette with its looped cutting edge scrapes the placenta from the uterine wall and cuts the child into smaller pieces that can then be suctioned.

**Dilation and Evacuation (D&E):** As the pregnancy continues, the child becomes too big for either of the above methods. In the D&E method, the cervix is dilated over a period of 2 or 3 days. A forceps is inserted and used to dismember the child one limb at a time and to extract each part. Finally, the head is crushed and removed. All parts are “reassembled” on a metal tray following the procedure to make sure the abortion is complete.

### Tools of Death

Pictured below are examples of various deadly instruments used in abortion procedures. These instruments forcefully dilate the cervix to allow the child to pass through ahead of her normal time. They suction out the bodies of babies or dismember them limb by limb. The tools photographed here were actually used to destroy thousands of babies before the abortionist who used them was put out of business.

(Photos courtesy of Priests for Life.)



**Dilation and Extraction (D&X):** Referred to as “Partial-Birth Abortion,” this method also requires up to 3 days for dilating the cervix. The abortionist guides the child feet first through the birth canal and allows all but the head to be delivered. Holding the head in place with one hand, the abortionist uses his other hand to puncture the base of the skull with a scissors-like instrument. A tube is inserted into this hole and the brains are suctioned out. The skull collapses, and the delivery of the now dead child is completed.

**RU-486:** This is a chemical abortion method approved by the FDA in 2000 for use in the first 7 weeks of pregnancy. The pregnant woman takes a synthetic steroid, mifepristone, at her first visit to the abortionist. This disintegrates the uterine lining and causes the child to die. She returns to the abortionist 36 to 48 hours later and takes a second drug, misoprostol. She goes home and waits for this drug to cause uterine contractions, and the dead child is expelled. She must be examined 14 days later to be sure no portion of the child remains in her uterus.

### Abortion’s Scope and Reasons

Defending the “right to choose” is defending abortion during all nine months of pregnancy for any reason. States may not restrict abortion if the mother’s life or health is threatened. When it comes to abortion, the U.S. Supreme Court in *Doe vs. Bolton* legally defined health as “all factors — physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman’s age — relevant to the well-being of the patient. All these factors may relate to health.” In other words, defense of abortion is defending abortion for *any* reason. Most abortions *are not* done to end pregnancies that are the result of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother. Over 90% of abortions are performed because: a baby would interfere with work, school, or other responsibilities; financial concerns; concerns about being a single parent; or problems with the father of the child.

### Abortion and Teens

Defending the “right to choose” is defending minors making life-changing decisions without parental involvement. In many states, minors do not need parental consent for an abortion. In most states where such consent is required, a judicial bypass is often easily obtained.

### Abortion and Life

Defending the “right to choose” is defending the proposition that it is sometimes morally right to take an innocent human life. It is a biological fact that a genetically unique human life begins at conception. By the time most

abortions are performed, the developing boy or girl has grown from a single cell to a tiny baby. The heart begins to beat at around 24 days. Brain waves can be recorded at 43 days. Movement begins at 45 days. By 8 weeks every organ is present and functioning. The rest of the time in the womb is spent in further growth and development. It is important to know that it is not *something* that is aborted. It is *someone*.

### Abortion’s Numbers

Defending the “right to choose” is defending the death of “someone” at an unprecedented scale. Abortion is one of the most common surgical procedures in the United States. Over 3,000 are performed each day. More Americans die from abortion in one year than died in all the wars in which America has ever fought.

### Abortion’s Other “Someones”

Defending the “right to choose” is defending a choice that deeply affects those who make that choice. Abortion has physical, emotional, and spiritual affects on the women and men involved. An abortionist, who is also a psychiatrist, stated that abortion “is not as harmless and casual an event as many in the pro-abortion crowd insist. A psychological price is paid.”<sup>1</sup> Someone dies in an abortion. Someone else is deeply wounded.

### Conclusion and Final Fact

You may like pizza because it is your favorite food, but defending a position requires more than just how you may feel about it. It requires knowledge of the facts. Defending something as controversial as “the right to choose” especially requires proper knowledge. This article has not been filled with extensive detailed data. It contains basic facts that everyone should know before defending abortion as a fundamental right.

There is one more important fact to know. God put it this way, “*There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death*” (Proverbs 16:25). The “right to choose” may sound like a good and right thing to defend. But it is important to ask, “*What is being chosen?*” When the answer to that question is abortion, the “right to choose” leads to death. It leads to the death of a tiny, innocent human being. It leads to a brutal death. There is nothing “right” about such a way. There has to be another way.

There is! Jesus put it this way, “*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me*” (John 14:6). When faced with a crisis pregnancy, there is a way other than death. It is the way of life. It is choosing life and trusting in the Lord of Life. Jesus, who is the way to eternal life, has also promised the presence of His Spirit in the living of this life. It is not a way where fear and heartache are absent. It is a way where the living

Jesus is present and promises to be at work in every circumstance in your life. Rather than defending the “right to choose,” this way assures that you are being defended. Jesus pleads your case before the Father, seeking forgiveness for your mistakes based on the payment He made on the cross. He asks the Father to look at you through Him and see His goodness covering you. He asks the Father to send the Spirit of comfort to walk beside you and turn your heartache into hope.

There is a way that *seems* right. It leads to death. There is a way that *is* right. It is where Jesus leads.

**(Footnotes)**

<sup>1</sup> David C. Reardon, *The Jericho Plan - Breaking Down the Walls Which Prevent Post-Abortion Healing* page 2.

## FDA Won't Allow Over The Counter Sales of “Morning After” Pill

In a decision that is receiving praise from pro-life organizations, the Food and Drug Administration decided on May 6 that it will not allow over the counter sales of the so-called morning after pill. Pro-life groups oppose the use of the drug because it is dangerous for women and can sometimes cause abortions.

The FDA made its decision based on concerns about the effects of the drug on teenagers. However, it left the door open to allowing the drugs to be sold to adults. The agency also said it would reconsider its decision if Barr Laboratories, maker of the Plan B morning after drug, would provide more details on teens’ use of the drugs.

Barr Labs said it was disappointed by the FDA’s decision. Barr Chief Executive Bruce Downey said his company would seek nonprescription sales approval again, but this time for people 16 years or older. “The FDA has also provided us with pathways to a future approval, and we are committed to following the pathways until we get this product on the market over the counter,” Downey said. Downey said he expected to be able to accomplish that in a matter of months. Pro-life groups hailed the agency’s decision as a victory for women and teenagers.

David Stevens, MD, Christian Medical and Dental Associations (CMA) Executive Director, said, “The FDA is wise to have carefully weighed the dangers of over the counter distribution in the interest of women’s health, despite intense political pressure from abortion advocates. It is critically important that these drugs be administered under the trained professional oversight of physicians, who can carefully and professionally assess a woman’s medical history and factors that could make her vulnerable to complications. If these pills

could be bought over the counter as easily as aspirin or cold medicine, the obvious temptation would be to use the drugs as a primary method of birth control, yet they have not been adequately tested for repetitive use.”

Gene Rudd, MD, obstetrician/gynecologist and CMA Associate Executive Director, agreed saying “It is also important that the FDA insure proper labeling by the manufacturer in the interest of informed consent. Women considering this pill deserve honest and accurate information about the drug’s post fertilization effects. The ‘morning after pill’ is designed to work in two ways: It can prevent ovulation. If ovulation has already occurred, it can interrupt human development after fertilization. While no one questions these facts, in shades of deceit, the package literature says that these pills do not cause abortion or affect pregnancy. Not only is there failure to inform, this information clearly misleads those who value human life from fertilization.”

*(New and Views, CMDA, 5/7; LifeNews.com, 5/8)*

### Abortion Numbers & Other Stats



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

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

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

*(National Right to Life Committee)*

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

*(National Right to Life Committee)*

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

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

*(U.S. Census 2000)*

**Correction:** The spring 2004 *LifeDate* article, *What happens if you make abortion illegal?*, page 7, had two errors not in the original text. The number of abortions in Poland in 2001 was 124, not 1214. The population of Poland is about 40 million, not 110 million. LFL regrets the errors.

## All That Resurrection Talk

by Rev. Robert Fleischmann  
National Director, Christian Life Resources

Don't be fooled by the resurrection talk (sounds pretty controversial for a conservative Lutheran minister to say). Let me explain:

The resurrection talk in Scripture is 100% true, 100% comforting, and should be proclaimed to 100% of the people. That is **not** the resurrection talk I am talking about. There is a different kind of resurrection talk going on – **and it's coming from Christians!** I get this talk a lot from new acquaintances who learn I am a minister. They share with me personal heartaches as they care for an aging or disabled loved one. Sometimes, in graphic detail, they share the vignettes of lost dignity such as the help needed for a feeding. Perhaps it's the explanation of a loved one's loss of incredible intellect or humor which leaves him or her completely unaware of the surroundings. Maybe it is the account of soiled bed sheets, drooling, and the inability to be spoon fed.

As they share heart-wrenching details with me, they include their own personal sadness, inconvenience, despair, and frustration with regard to the many perfunctory routines that need to be done. Predictably, the story gets to the point. As if to assure me the caregiver knows something about God, he or she would remind me of how heaven is a better place than the misery their loved one was experiencing on this earth. For that reason the decision was made. It was difficult. It was sad. But ultimately the decision was made to stop medicating, stop feeding, and/or stop caring. Death then predictably came 10-20 days later. The story generally ends with the words, "I know we will be together some day."

It is this resurrection talk that is factually correct but is misapplied. Consider the facts:

• **Heaven is a better place.** No doubt about it. Jesus said heaven is a place of many rooms with one of them having our name on it (John 14:2). John's revelation speaks of a place with no crying, suffering, or pain (Revelation 7:16-17). It is great – no doubt about it.

• **Life on earth can be very harsh.** Paul and Barnabas reminded us that we must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God (Acts 14:22). Jesus said that increasing

wickedness makes it a cold world (Matthew 24:12). Even at a better moment in his life the Apostle Paul considered death and being with Jesus better than living – by far (Philippians 1:21-23). Even in the best of times heaven is always a far better alternative to living on earth.

• **Time on earth is the prerogative of God.** God reserves for Himself the authority over life and death (Deuteronomy 32:39 and Psalm 31:15). He does not allow us to make qualitative judgments over who lives and who dies.

• **Although life offers many opportunities and choices for us, we are always to make choices reflective of our faith** (Romans 12:2 & 1 Peter 1:14-15). That means our allegiance to God is the first and foremost determinant in how to care for loved ones (Ephesians 5:2). Even if we conclude that death is better than life, it is God's will that rules supreme.

In faith we trust that He works all things out for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28). Practically speaking there are times when people lose virtually all quality of their lives. Some live in a condition apparently unaware of their surroundings. Others become deeply depressed as they mourn the loss of their independence, vitality, and maybe even their dignity.



Because these people are sometimes our loved ones, we know how they feel. We know they don't want to live in this manner. We are pained to see them like this and know that if the tables were turned, we wouldn't want to be in the same condition. I cannot debate these points.

We must, however, accept the reality that life lacks equity and fairness when hardship and suffering come into our lives. Sometimes "good" people appear to suffer much and "evil" people seem to suffer little. After all, wasn't the ultimate Good Person tortured and executed on a cross (2 Corinthians 5:21)?

We must, in our heartache, examine the character of our faith and watch as God stretches its limits. Even in the worst of times, God comes through. The Apostle Paul said, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

Yes, the glory is indescribable for a once-suffering loved one who dies in faith. Heaven is far better than their diminished existence on earth. But in fairness, it is far better than life at its best. Let's say we ignore, for a moment, that God does not

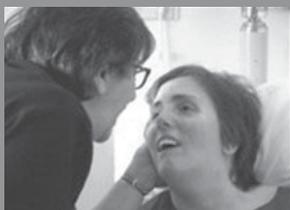
want us to kill others. Where, then, do you draw the line? It is far too arbitrary.

There is a better way to approach these end-of-life circumstances, and it is all in the attitude. We are tempted to cut short a person's life because we see no value in its continued existence on earth. That is the error. We think this trauma is all about the person who is suffering. Have you thought about another lesson that may be taking place? How about the lesson of personal sacrifice on your part for the well-being of others? How about the realignment of priorities to get you back on track with what is right and off the track of selfish pursuits for a world that eventually ends? What about the janitor?

Yes, I mean that. What about the janitor? Remember the passage that says, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15). When someone observes you sacrificing to care for a loved one, even when there is no return in it for you, they wonder. Maybe it's the janitor. Perhaps God is preparing him with your example, and he may even ask how you can handle the situation. Your response may be to tell him about the ultimate sacrifice in Jesus Christ.

The resurrection story of Easter Sunday is pivotal to all that we believe in, not just for eternity but for now as well. We know that we are strangers here and that heaven is our home. We also know that the reason we are here is to serve God and share His message of life everlasting. We do that with an obedient life, a ready tongue, and a Christ-focused heart that faces all of life's trials with confidence. Even in the harshest of times, the Christian faith prevails.

*(Clearing Caring, March/April 2004. Used by permission.)*



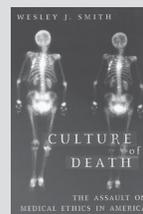
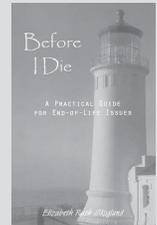
For the latest on the Terri Schiavo case go to: [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

## LFL End-of-Life Resources



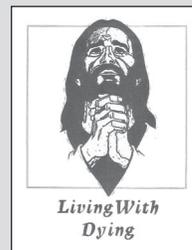
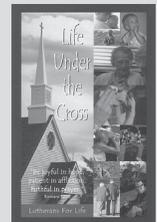
**The Basics on Advance Directives: Thy Will Be Done** – Is it proper for a Christian to have a Living Will? This brochure has basic information about Living Wills and other advance directives that will help a Christian answer that question. **\$0.25 ea. plus S & H - Item 807B**

**Before I Die - A Practical Guide for End-of-Life Issues** – This excellent booklet shares principles for the Christian at life's end along with words of encouragement. Written by noted author and licensed marriage and family therapist Elizabeth Skoglund. **\$2.00 ea. plus S & H - Item #809B**



**The Culture of Death: The Assault on Medical Ethics in America** – Wesley Smith goes behind the current scenes of our health care system, showing how some doctors withdraw desired care based on Futile Care Theory rather than provide it as required by the Hippocratic Oath and how "bioethicists" influence policy by considering questions such as whether organs may be harvested from the terminally ill and disabled. **\$15.00 ea. plus S & H - Item #808B**

**Life Under the Cross** bulletin insert – There are those who say death is the solution to our problems. However, there is a better solution! It is "Life Under the Cross." We can seek the presence of Jesus in suffering rather than seeking the absence of suffering at all costs (Romans 5:1-5). **\$0.07 ea. plus S & H - Item 806BI**



**Living With Dying** – A 3-ring binder with over 60 items addressing the medical, historical, spiritual, legal, and ethical questions arising at life's end. Aimed at helping you to understand – and communicate – the crucial distinction between allowing to die and aiming to kill. **\$20.00 ea. plus S & H - 802B**

[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)  
**(888) 364-LIFE • orders@lutheransforlife.org**

## New Resources!

### The 3 Bs of When Life Begins

“When does human life begin?”

That question comes up in connection with cloning and embryonic stem cells and genetic testing and the “morning after” pill. Physicians, scientists, politicians, philosophers, and theologians offer a variety of complex and differing answers. Does anyone really know when life begins?

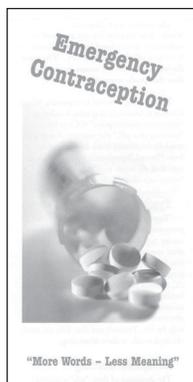
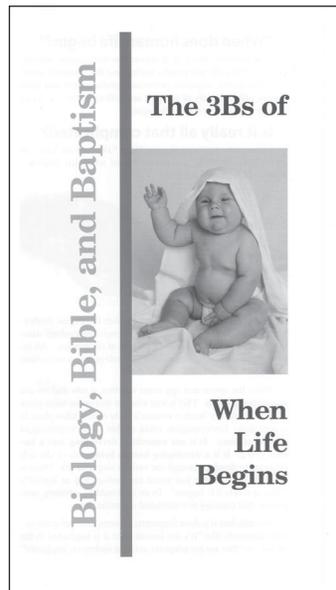
Is it really all that complicated?

Let's get back to some basics.

If the “3Rs” are the basics of education, the “3Bs” are the basics of when life begins – Biology, Bible, and Baptism.

**\$0.25 ea. plus S & H - Item #1004T**

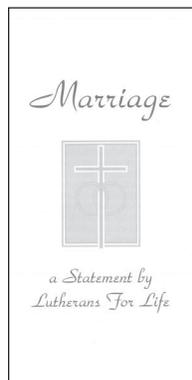
**FULL COLOR**



**Emergency Contraception** – What does “Emergency Contraception” really mean? The meaning of words is important. When it comes to understanding what is called “emergency contraception” (EC) or the “morning after pill,” the meaning of words is crucially important. The national media is using a lot of words making EC sound safe and easy. But the many words are lessening the meaning of what is really involved. **\$0.25 ea. plus S & H - Item #1003T**

### Marriage - A Statement by Lutherans For Life

Sin has certainly brought problems to marriage. The reality of problematic marriages, however, does not abdicate the essence of what marriage is. Jesus makes this clear. “But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one” (Mark 10:6-8). What God intended marriage to be in the beginning, He still intends marriage to be. **\$0.25 ea. plus S & H - Item #905T**



## Life Sunday 2004



bulletin inserts  
**Just Imagine . . . what will this baby be?**

\$0.07 ea • (105BI)

**Just For Kids XI**

\$0.07 ea • (711BI)

CD

**Just Imagine . . . what will this baby be?**

\$8.00 ea • (1507)

Bible study

(with reproducible student guide)

**Just Imagine! Hope in God's Plan**

\$0.25 ea • (105BS)

video

**You Are a Masterpiece**

\$19.95 ea • (700AV)

An award-winning, captivating tour of the pre-born with 3-D animation and state-of-the-art images designed especially for elementary age children – but appropriate for all ages!

also available . . .

**LFL Membership Form** bulletin insert

FREE (shipping charges apply after the first 100) • (1600)

**Just Imagine Life Sunday Sermons**

Printed (1819) • Disk (1842) • CD-ROM (1819PP) • \$2.00 ea

**Just Imagine** worship service format

\$0.15 ea • (1822)

**2004 Children's Life Sunday Message**

(includes 12-week fetal model)

\$0.50 ea • (1829)

**LFL's "For Life"** video

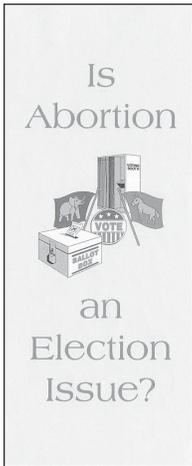
(includes *God Loves Life* audio cassette and sheet music)

\$5.00 ea • (1703)

(888) 364-LIFE

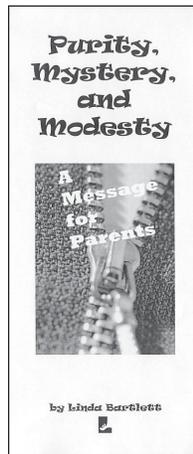
orders@lutheransforlife.org

# For Life Resources from Lutherans For Life!



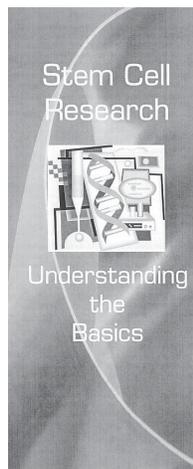
**Is Abortion an Election Issue?** - So often we hear people who oppose abortion still talk about it as if it is no different than tax cuts or Social Security. It is much different. It is not even on the same plane! Abortion is a sin. Abortion is a sin against the Author and Giver of Life. That makes abortion a spiritual issue not just an election issue. **\$0.25 cents each plus S & H - Item #118T FULL COLOR**

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

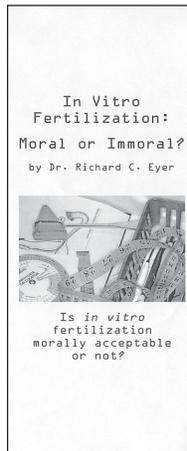
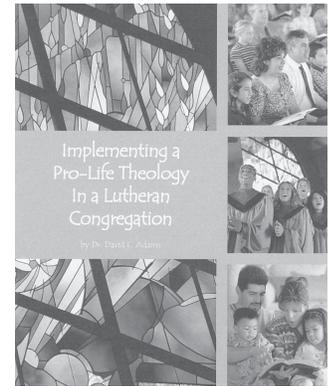


**Cloning: Understanding the Basics** - The cloning of Dolly the sheep is old news. Now there is talk about cloning humans to "replace" a dead child or to provide body parts for transplant. There is even a cult that sees cloning as the means to eternal life. The vast majority of people are opposed to such cloning. But what about cloning human embryos to obtain stem cells in order to treat disease? **\$0.30 each plus S & H - Item #1001T FULL COLOR**

**Stem Cell Research: Understanding the Basics** - It is important for the Christian to understand that God's Word does have something to say about embryonic stem cell research (ESCR). To understand how God's Word applies to this controversial issue, however, a basic understanding of the biology involved is necessary first. So welcome to Embryonic Stem Cell Biology 101! **\$0.30 each plus S & H - Item #1000T FULL COLOR**



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



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

**Into His Loving Care** - A unique devotional booklet by Linda Bartlett, for mothers and fathers who have lost a child through miscarriage or stillbirth. This booklet now features all new artwork and a full color cover. **\$2.00 each plus S & H - Item #902B**



**ORDERING INFORMATION** - Payment Policy: Please **DO NOT PREPAY**. 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 on-line (by credit card), by mail, phone, fax, or email. Orders are sent via USPS or UPS. For UPS delivery a street address is required.

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## A Brief History of Bioethics

by Paul Snamiska, *Christian Life Resources*.

Bioethics is a relatively new term which describes the ethical issues surrounding the whole aspect of life. Allow me to break this discussion into three divisions. Each division is unique in its goal, but overlapping in its timing.

### Stage One of Bioethics: Killing

As inconceivable as it might sound, the initial, organized effort in bioethics was to eliminate some of the weakest of society in order to benefit the greater good. A major step was taken when abortion was legalized, but the effort goes into infanticide, physician assisted suicide, and euthanasia. Each new step was partnered with the idea that this movement would actually help people. The unwed mother could avoid the unwanted pregnancy. The elderly could maintain some dignity, and the available resources could be used for the healthy. This is far from a Biblical philosophy that states God alone holds authority over life and death (Deuteronomy 32:39, Exodus 20:13, Genesis 9:5-6, and others).

### Stage Two of Bioethics: Designing

This is the stage of genetic engineering and the related fields of stem cell research and cloning. As a child you probably saw science fiction movies that portrayed a world in which genetics were manipulated, often with disastrous results. Well, welcome to the future. The difficulty in evaluating this "designing" stage is that some of the work is acceptable according to Biblical principles as they truly work to help the sick or dying. The line is thin that separates glorifying God and playing God.

### Stage Three of Bioethics: Combining

This is the world of cyborgs, chimeras, and nanotechnology. Think of the benefits that can be "created" when we combine man and animal or man and machine! Is this all evil? Well, some who received pig valve transplants to keep their hearts beating would say "no." Prosthetic advancements are certainly beneficial for mankind without crossing the line of Christian ethics. Yet, there is also the uneasy feeling that we are on the verge of going too far and ending up in a place from which we cannot return.

So, let's take a look at evaluating these advancements. Stage One is still rather easy to evaluate. Human life is given value by our Savior, Jesus Christ, who died and gave up His life for us. We cannot compromise on this truth, and we must celebrate the victory every year during Lent and Easter. At

no time can human life take on a lessened value, even if it is argued that the reduction leads to greater benefits to society. Stages Two and Three are not so easy to evaluate, but these are also the reality for us as we face the future.

You can't predict the specific issues that will confront us in the next fifty years, but you can continually feed on the truths of God's Word which is building the foundation on which you can rely.

*(Adapted from the March 2004 LifeTalk for Teachers, Christian Life Resources. Used by permission.)*

## Playing God - redesigning life

explores the ethics of:

- DNA manipulation
- Stem cell research
- Cloning
- And more!

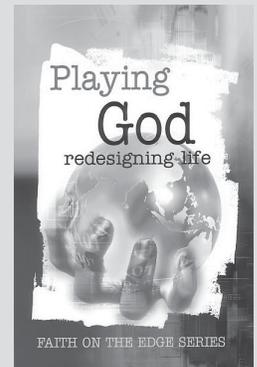
As you progress through this 6-session study, you will learn how these scientific "advances" hold up in light of God's Word.

You'll discover that God has designs for every life.

This study is written by Rev. Dr. Robert W. Weise, Professor of Pastoral Ministry and the Life Sciences, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Six one-hour studies.

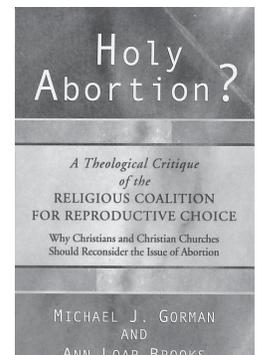
\$6.50 plus S & H - Item #1000BS



## Holy Abortion?

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

\$6.00 each plus S & H - Item 105B



# Building Better Babies: How Engineering Our Children Robs Us of Our Humanity

by Charles Colson

A recent issue of the *Weekly Standard* featured an article with the ominous title “Building a Better Baby.” The article reports that a new screening process, called FASTER, will allow doctors to test an unborn child for Down syndrome as early as ten to thirteen weeks. This would mean that the child’s mother “could terminate her pregnancy before it showed,” so the article says – easier and more convenient for everyone.

At the same time, some doctors are saying that all pregnant women, not just those whose children are at risk of having birth defects, should routinely be offered potentially dangerous tests like amniocentesis. As the *Weekly Standard* points out, a recent British survey indicates that women are so worried about the possibility of having a genetically abnormal child that they’re willing to risk the miscarriage that amniocentesis can cause. This tallies with the statistic that “about 90 percent of women who discover their baby has a chromosomal disorder abort it.” Ninety percent! If that figure isn’t shocking, I don’t know what is.

Clearly, there’s been a major shift in the way our society thinks about the disabled – something to which I, as a grandfather of an autistic child, am acutely sensitive. Not that the doctors advocating the testing or the women choosing the abortions would put it that way – after all, it’s not politically correct to discriminate against the disabled, not after they’re born anyway. But they would probably say that, in these cases, they were doing the merciful thing by ending a life of suffering before it really began. By using such euphemisms, our culture has bought into the bizarre but seductive idea that the best way to eliminate certain kinds of illnesses is simply to eliminate the people who suffer from those illnesses.

We may reach a point, as the author argues, when all mothers of children with genetic abnormalities will be expected to abort them. Already some mothers are feeling the burden of this expectation. Some time ago, I reported on the case of a man whose wife reluctantly aborted after finding out something was wrong with their child – and after intense pressure from her doctors. When the woman got pregnant again, she didn’t want her child tested at all, but she finally gave in “to doctors, friends, and a husband who couldn’t bear not knowing.” But even the husband had to admit, “It seems to me a plausible fear that eventually these decisions will slip more and more from our hands . . .” We already know that many do, because insurance companies often refuse to cover a costly childhood disability that has been detected in

utero. Each abortion of a disabled child, besides being a tragedy in itself, brings us one step closer to just this sort of financially coerced eugenics.

It’s one thing to want a healthy child. But it’s another thing to refuse to let an unhealthy child see the light of day. When we manipulate life in this way and diminish the humanity of the unborn, we become less human ourselves because we end up viewing life – all life, ours included – as a commodity that can be rejected by quality control.

Christians need to take the lead in educating people that children are gifts, as my autistic grandson most surely is. By going down the path we’re currently on, we might one day get rid of genetic diseases, but only at the cost of our own humanity.

(Copyright © 2004 Prison Fellowship Ministries. Reprinted with permission. “BreakPoint with Chuck Colson” is a radio ministry of Prison Fellowship Ministries.)

## Q: Life in a test tube—would this prove evolution?

A: First of all, we need to realize that scientists have never made life in a test tube—and probably never will.

But in public school textbooks, students are shown experiments where scientists have been trying to create what they believe were conditions on Earth millions of years ago. Then they try to see if they can make life from chemicals.

But what are they really doing? They are using their intelligence to design experiments and complicated pieces of equipment, trying to make life to prove that it all happened by chance! Students can see how illogical this is. The scientists aren’t using chance—but their intelligence!

Because all of these experiments have failed, some scientists have stated that life didn’t evolve on Earth after all. They believe that it must have evolved somewhere in outer space—and then arrived on Earth! Then they think they have solved the problem about the origin of life—but they have just pushed the problem further out into space!

These scientists could save millions of dollars if only they would read the greatest Book of all time—the Bible, starting with Genesis—which has all the answers we need.

**Quotable quote:** “Considering the way the prebiotic soup is referred to in so many discussions of the origin of life as an already established reality, it comes as something of a shock to realize that there is absolutely no positive evidence for its existence.”

– Molecular biologist Dr. Michael Denton in *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, Adler & Adler, Publishers, Inc. USA, p. 261, 1985.

(Answers in Genesis Update, 4/3, [answersingenesis.org](http://answersingenesis.org))



## Teen Pregnancies, Abortions on Decline – Family advocates cite the influence of abstinence education as the reason.

Teen pregnancy and abortion rates have continued to decline across the country, news hailed by family advocates as proof that abstinence education is working.

Even the pro-abortion Alan Guttmacher Institute, which just published a study showing that teenagers in 2000 were less likely to become pregnant or have abortions than teens at any time since 1990, says the decline is cause for celebration.

“Between ’96 and 2000, every single racial and ethnic group, every state has seen declines,” explained Jennifer Nadeau, director of communications for the institute. “So it’s really good news for everybody.”

The specifics of that good news: Only a third of the nation’s teen pregnancies ended in abortion in 2000, continuing a steady decline observed since 1986. Pregnancy rates for young women were down as well.

Still, Nadeau — whose group is an affiliate of Planned Parenthood — claimed 75 percent of the decline between 1990 and ’95 was due to contraceptives, while just 25 percent was attributable to abstinence.

Edward Szymkowiak, national director of Stop Planned Parenthood International (STOPP), doesn’t buy those figures. He said two separate studies have pointed to abstinence as the main reason for the decline in teen pregnancies and abortions.

And Laura Echevarria, director of media relations for the National Right to Life Committee, said the numbers also indicate young people are a lot more conservative about sexual purity than society gives them credit for.

“A great deal of that has to do with peer-to-peer counseling,” she explained. “We are seeing so many studies coming out where teenagers, college freshmen, are very, very much pro-life.”

*(By Keith Peters, Family News in Focus, 2/23. Copyright © 2004 Focus on the Family. Used by permission.)*



**Word of Hope**  
888-217-8679

for confidential post-abortion  
referral, counsel, and reconciliation.

## Families Aren't Perfect, Just Forgiveness!

“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

“Kevin, I’m planning a radio program next week on sibling rivalry. This morning I reread the story of Joseph and his brothers in the Old Testament. Can you explain a few things to me...?”

My son, Rev. Kevin T. Meyer, made an interesting observation last fall as I asked him to clarify some Old Testament history. “You know, mom,” he said, “your work assisting,



encouraging, empowering, and strengthening family members is important! But, have you ever noticed that most families in the Bible were not the model ones congregational leaders strive to build? Yet, God still used individuals from these dysfunctional families to carry His message to the world! The story of Joseph and his brothers is just one example.”

My son is right. Although God created the first family perfect, they quickly disobeyed by breaking the one command God had given them. They took of the forbidden fruit and fell into sin. Their sin was passed on to each of us. We see broken families throughout the Old and New Testament. Noah got drunk in front of his children. Abraham got his priorities messed up. Isaac treats his sons unfairly. Jacob had a favorite son. David spoiled his child. Solomon had a hard time keeping track of which child came from which wife. And the High Priest Eli also had disobedient sons.

Let’s admit it! We don’t have perfect families! There was only one who was perfect and without sin. Jesus Christ was without sin. Yet, He became sin for us! God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). So, now we, who are sinners, can accept His forgiveness each day! And we can be assured of our eternal life with Him.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank you for creating families, for living the life we cannot live, for granting us forgiveness and life everlasting with You in heaven. Amen.

*By Kay Meyer, Family Shield Ministries  
www.familyshieldministries.org*

■ An alternative to abortion in the form of ‘baby hatches’ is gaining ground in Germany, designed to help desperate women with unwanted pregnancies. The ‘baby hatch’ is simply a hatch in a wall containing a bed and blanket where a woman can leave her baby anonymously. The mother retains a hand or footprint of the baby so that she can get back in touch with the center and reclaim the baby within a certain period of time. If the mother does not get in touch, the baby is put up for adoption. There are now 65 baby hatches in Germany, mainly supported by the Catholic Church and other Christian charities. (*Yahoo News*, 2/15; *SPUC – Society for the Protection of Unborn Children*, 2/16)

■ Industrialized nations with low fertility rates and ageing populations face debt burdens worse than during the Second World War, the *Financial Times* reports. The report conducted by *Standard and Poor’s* found that European countries, including Germany, France, and Greece, could see debt grow to over 200% of gross domestic product by 2050, while Japan faces a debt of more than 700% of GDP. Richard Jackson, senior fellow in charge of the demography project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in the United States, said: “In a scenario which is about as optimistic as you can get, that still leaves fiscal meltdown in just about every country in 25 years.” (*Financial Times*, *SPUC*, 4/1)

■ A report released by *WorldNetDaily.com* has found that China faces a demographic disaster similar to that faced by many western countries. The ratio of workers to retired people is projected to decline from 10:1 in 1999 to 6:1 in 2020 and 3:1 by 2050, largely due to the effects of the one-child policy. Another effect of the policy is a shortage of girls, with many men resorting to buying brides, particularly from Burma. (*LifeSiteNews.com*, 2/18; *SPUC*, 2/19)

■ South Korea’s government is planning to offer cash incentives to parents for having children in an attempt to avoid a demographic catastrophe. Women in South Korea bear 1.17 children on average, compared to the 2.3 replacement level, and the country’s population is projected to decrease by two-thirds in the next century. (*CWNNews*, 3/30; *SPUC*, 3/31)

■ The Portuguese parliament has rejected calls to liberalize its abortion laws, following a high profile court case in which 17 people were charged over illegal abortions. Pro-abortion activists have been calling for a referendum after losing one in 1998, but Jose Manuel Durao Barroso, the Prime Minister, does not intend to deal with abortion law until 2006. (*Alertnet.org*, 3/3; *SPUC*, 3/4)

■ More than one in five pregnancies end in registered abortions in the United Kingdom, according to new figures, while the number of childless women over 40 has increased dramatically. Twenty-three percent of pregnancies ended in abortion in 2000, with 36% of pregnancies in women under 20 ending in abortion. The figure has continued to rise in spite of easy access to contraception and the abortion-inducing morning after pill. (*The Telegraph*, *SPUC*, 3/31)

■ A survey of 5000 UK teenagers has found that young people are more pro-life than their parents and are concerned about the sexualization of society. The survey, conducted by *Bliss* magazine, found that two-thirds of young people thought there were too many abortions and that of the 25% who had engaged in sex by the age of 15, four in ten regretted it because they were too young, drunk, or felt coerced. (*The Telegraph*, *SPUC*, 3/11)

■ The Swiss authorities plan to crack down on “suicide tourists” who travel to Switzerland to end their lives at the Zurich Dignitas clinic. Foreigners will have to reside in Switzerland for six months before being eligible for assisted suicide. Ninety-one foreigners died last year with the help of Dignitas. (*The Telegraph*, 3/14; *SPUC*, 3/15)

■ During a speech at the University of Adelaide, Australian Health Minister Tony Abbott spoke of society’s need to address the problem of teenage promiscuity with the same seriousness that it tackles smoking and dangerous driving. “Why isn’t the fact that 100,000 women choose to end their pregnancies regarded as a national tragedy approaching the scale (say) of Aboriginal life expectancy being 20 years less than that of the general community?” he said. “Even those who think that abortion is a woman’s right should be troubled by the fact that 100,000 Australian women choose to destroy their unborn babies every year.” (*Cathnews*, *SPUC*, 3/17)

■ The Kolbe Prize for Peace was given to Dr. Abel Pacheco, president of the Republic of Costa Rica, in recognition of his leadership in opposition of human cloning at the United Nations. Pacheco says he is concerned about runaway scientists who are focused more on research than ethical considerations. “As a medical doctor, I believe in science, but in science with principles; science within ethical boundaries, with ethical norms that guide the search for knowledge,” said Pacheco. “As a scientist myself, I believe and support fully the development of biotechnology, insofar as it does not violate human dignity.” The Kolbe Prize for Peace is bestowed annually by C-FAM to an individual who has most advanced the culture of life and the dignity of the human person on the international stage. (*LifeNews.com*, 2/26)



# Life Thoughts in the Church Year

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

## July 4 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus speaks of self-denial in today’s Gospel (Luke 9:18-24). That’s not always easy when faced with a crisis like an unplanned pregnancy or cancer. We naturally think of ourselves. But following Jesus means trusting in His mercy and His will, not in our own understanding.

## July 11 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost

The smallest of our neighbors we are to love as ourselves (Galatians 5:14) are the unborn. It may cost us friends and even family to serve Christ by serving these most vulnerable human beings. It is who we follow, not the cost involved, however, that makes such service worthy (Luke 9:57-62).

## July 18 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost

A fellow Christian who defends the right to abortion is not just someone with a differing opinion. He defends sin. He needs to be corrected. Watch yourself, however, and avoid judgmental arrogance and pride. Do not attack and condemn. Use gentleness and the truth of God’s Word (Galatians 6:1).

## July 25 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Christians have been “rescued from the dominion of darkness” (Colossians 1:13) and live as “saints in the kingdom of light” (1:12). Therefore, obedience is not a way *to* life; it is a way *of* life. Obedience bears fruit as we see those who are helpless, not as people who would be “better off dead,” but as our neighbors we are to love (Luke 10:25-37).

## August 1 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

God brought life and laughter when there was no hope for either (Genesis 18:10-14). He continues to do so. Those who feel “alienated from God” and “enemies” because of their “evil behavior” (Colossians 1:21), have hope! They are “without blemish and free from accusation” (1:22), “perfect in Christ” (1:28). Those who feel alienated from God because of the sin of abortion need to hear this hope applied to their sin so they too can laugh again.

## August 8 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Persist in prayer! God has promised to answer and give us what is good! (Luke 11:1-13). With all the “hollow and deceptive” philosophies (Colossians 2:8) masquerading as truth in our culture, pray persistently that God would expose this deception and use us to make His truth known.

## August 15 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Focus on “earthly things” (Colossians 3:2) promotes the idea that “the end justifies the means.” People become willing to use whatever means necessary to extend their life, cure disease, or accumulate wealth. Focus on heavenly things promotes trust in an end that means everything!

## August 22 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Abram thought he had to take matters of life into his own hands (Genesis 15:1-6). But we do not live ruled by seemingly impossible circumstances. Jesus gives us the Kingdom (Luke 12:32) and rules our lives by His grace. That means we live in faith trusting in His promises (Hebrews 11:1-3). We do not have to take life into our own hands.

## August 29 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Today’s readings focus on faithfulness—faithfulness in sharing God’s Word of truth in the midst of falsehoods (Jeremiah 23:23-29), faithfulness in the midst of hardship (Hebrews 12:1-13), and faithfulness in the midst of division (Luke 12:49-53). Christians are not to avoid controversial truths like the sanctity of human life. We are to be faithful to our faithful God.

## September 5 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

A “heavenly Jerusalem” waits (Hebrews 12:22). It is not unworthy sinners who see themselves as unforgivable who will be excluded from its narrow entrance. Rather it is those who see themselves as worthy and in no need of forgiveness who will be excluded (Luke 13:22-30). Here lies a great hope for those, like those struggling with an abortion decision, who feel their sin is too big to be forgiven.

## September 12 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Today’s readings do not focus on marriage. However, honoring marriage is mentioned (Hebrews 13:4). In light of society’s present contempt for marriage, it may be prudent to use this opportunity to proclaim God’s truth on this subject. LFL’s *Statement on Marriage* – found at [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org) (and in brochure form on page 10) – may be of help. When you deal with this subject or any of the life issues, remember God’s Word, “So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?’” (13:6)

## September 19 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” (Proverbs 9:10). The best way to teach God’s people about the sanctity of human life is to teach them about the Holy One and the value that He gives to life.

## September 26 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Today’s readings make it clear that God is in the sinner seeking business! He is patient, and seeks out even the “worst of sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15-16). Those who have committed sins against life often feel like the “worst of sinners.” Include them in your application of God’s abundant mercy.



## Working together to save lives

Within the next 24 hours, 12,000 teens will contract a sexually transmitted disease. Thirty percent of those diseases are incurable.

Each year, the requests of more than 2 million loving parents for adoptive babies are denied. There aren't enough babies for adoption because, in part, of the abortion crisis.

Those facts are cited by Maggie Karner, LCMS Life Ministries director. "This is a scary world we live in, and it is imperative that our kids and congregations understand God's design for our bodies and how that miraculous plan affects our everyday lives from the womb to the grave," Karner said. "It is going to take an army of allies to get the word out effectively about life issues."



Maggie Karner, Director,  
LCMS Life Ministries

Two such allies working together are LCMS World Relief and Human Care's new Life Ministries and Lutherans For Life. Life Ministries was formed in response to a mandate from the 2001 Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Convention.



"We will interface on a variety of areas in order to maximize our efforts exponentially," Karner said. "As we expand awareness about life issues throughout the Synod—and the world—there can only be a greater call for materials and services from LFL. And we wholeheartedly support that."

Rev. Jim Lamb, LFL executive director, said that because of the two organizations' shared goal, "it's only appropriate that we work cooperatively. With more people working to witness to the sanctity of life, we hope to make a greater difference."

Karner and the Lutherans For Life Board of Directors met in February at the national LFL board meeting, beginning their cooperative support on behalf of the sanctity of life. In addition, Rev. Lamb will serve on the new synodical committee on life issues being formed through Life Ministries.

Lutherans For Life – an independent inter-Lutheran organization – continues to seek out new avenues of outreach to all Lutheran denominations.

## Reflections on the Signing of "Laci and Conner's Law"

by Dennis Dimauro

On April first of this year, I represented Lutherans for Life at the signing of the **Unborn Victims of Violence Act** in the East Room of the White House. This bill, also known as "Laci and Conner's Law," provides that, under federal law, any person who causes death or injury to a child in the womb will be charged with a separate offense, in addition to any charges relating to the mother. Laci Petersen's mother and stepfather were present to view the signing, as were the parents of other women who were murdered while pregnant. And not a few tears were shed by the crowd as we saw justice being done for Laci, her little son Conner, and many other women and children. The President concluded that by passing this bill, "we [as a nation] widen the circle of compassion and inclusion in our society, and we reaffirm that the United States of America is building a culture of life."

What seems so surprising is that it took until 2004 for this bill to become a law. Who in our nation would argue that no crime is committed when a pregnant woman is beaten so badly that the baby she is carrying dies? The answer of course is the abortion lobby. And one of the most visible spokeswomen in this lobby is Kate Michelman, who heads up NARAL Pro-Choice America. At a recent NARAL luncheon she said, "The situation is perilous, it's very scary. There's a lot going on in the world, and this (unborn victims' act) might get missed. But this is a very, very serious setback."



President George W. Bush signs H.R. 1997, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004, in the East Room on April 1, 2004. Pictured are, from left: Sen. Mike DeWine, Sen. Orrin Hatch, Rep. Melissa Hart, Carol Lyons, Buford Lyons, Sharon Rocha, Ron Grantski, Tracy Marciniak-Seavers, Cynthia Warner, and Stephanie Alberts.

One might ask why this bill is such a serious setback? How could passing a law which protects a pregnant woman's unborn child be considered "very scary"? To answer that question one must look at the perspective of the pro-choice lobby. You see, Christians like you and me think that people who brutally kill pregnant wives and their unborn children are "very scary." There are terrifying people who brutally kill their pregnant wives and their own unborn children. But what Ms. Michelman sees as "very scary," however, is that there is now a law which might convict someone for committing such unthinkable acts. Protecting just one child in the womb, even a wanted child, defeats the goals of NARAL and its allies: legal abortion at any time, for any reason, and at the taxpayer's expense.

Today's argument over abortion is really a more realistic contrast than what we heard about in the 1970's and 1980's. In those days we debated, "When Does Life Begin?" Some said life began after the first trimester (the first three months of gestation). Some said after "quickenings" or when the baby could be felt moving in the womb. Today you don't hear too much about this type of debate. The debate is now solely one of "choices." The reason for this debate shift is twofold. First, ultrasound photography has allowed scientists to answer the old question: life begins at conception. Second, since abortion is legal through the entire nine months of gestation (with the possible exception of partial-birth abortions, if the recently signed bill gets through the courts), when life begins is of little importance to our legal system.

So this brings up the new question for this decade: "When does birth begin?" If a child is born at 20 weeks and is wanted by her parents, neonatologists will furiously work to keep this tiny baby alive. In fact, due to our great medical technology, birth can occur any time from 40 weeks all the way back to even 20 weeks. Therefore, the question arises that if birth begins at 20 weeks, how can life begin at 40 weeks as our courts argue? Indeed, today's science has shown just how illogical our current abortion laws really are.

Since science has so discredited the old pro-choice arguments for abortion, these old reasons have been totally replaced by the "choice" of the abortion-minded mother. In a recent article for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, columnist Joan Ryan pointed out that the question for pro-choicers is simply a "woman's fundamental freedom to decide for herself, without political interference, when and if she becomes a

mother." But is that really true? You see, Laci **did** want to become a mother, and we can well assume that Laci wanted little Conner to be protected under the law. But as we have seen by its opposition to this bill, the pro-choice lobby doesn't feel that the law should even protect the "wanted child." No, the only protection that should be granted is to the **mother** of the "unwanted child." Where is the choice in that?

I think that this new law has brought into greater focus the fallacy of NARAL's pro-choice arguments. But where does this lead us as Christians who are trying to follow Jesus' plan for human life? Well, I think it leads us to try to change the hearts and minds of those still caught up in the old lies.

The question is how?

First, we need to be supportive of pregnant women in our churches. We need to offer to make them a meal when the baby is born and share in their joy of this precious new arrival. We need to let them know that their children are a blessing to the entire church community. One pastor I know prays at each service for every pregnant woman and her unborn child by name. What a great way to value these tiny gifts from God!

Second, we need to help with the unexpected pregnancies in our communities. We can do this by volunteering at our local pregnancy center, helping a woman with a ride to the doctor's office, or simply being a supportive ear to an unwed mother who just wants to share her difficulties.

Finally, we need to speak out in defense of the unborn. We need to publicly praise good laws like "Laci and Conner's Law" that are passed to help protect women and their children. We need to stop avoiding conversations about pro-life topics, because these conversations can change the minds of others. And we need to tell others who are contemplating abortion that God has another and better plan for their unborn children.

*Dennis Dimauro lives in Arlington, Virginia and represents LFL on the National Pro-Life Religious Council.*



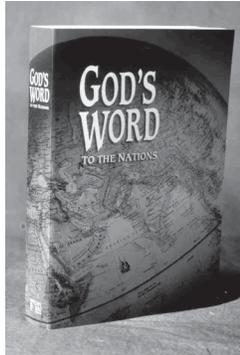
**Dennis Dimauro (l) with long-time pro-life champion, Representative Henry Hyde (R-IL) at the Unborn Victims of Violence Act signing ceremony at the White House.**

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## ***GOD'S WORD For Life!*** **Pro-life Bible Project Receives Generous Donation!**

LFL's pro-life Bible project *GOD'S WORD For Life!* received a huge boost in February through the generous pledge of \$128,000 from a Florida couple! Praise God! This pledge, combined with the other gifts already received, means this first-of-its-kind publishing endeavor is quickly moving forward!



*GOD'S WORD For Life* is being developed in cooperation with God's Word to the Nations ([www.godsword.org](http://www.godsword.org)), a mission society headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio. Their executive director, Rev. Michael Hackbart, says "this unique endeavor will produce an exceptional, comprehensive study Bible . . . that will be used by every Christian involved in every aspect of the pro-life movement in thousands of Lutheran and other caring pregnancy centers throughout America! This project will produce 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!"

LFL Executive Director Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb is both the general editor and a contributor for this project. Dr. Lamb is preparing commentary based on the *GOD'S WORD* translation. He has also solicited other exegetical insights and commentary on the many For Life Scripture passages from an outstanding list of contributors including:

- Brian Young – *The Importance of Creation*
- Dr. Robert Weise – *Biotechnology and Infertility*
- Rev. Dr. David Adams – *Human Being/Personhood*
- Dr. Jean Garton – *Rape/Incest*
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- Rev. Matthew Harrison – *Civil Issues and Christian Responsibility*
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It is hoped that *GOD'S WORD For Life* will be published by January of 2005!

This is an extraordinary opportunity!

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

**Richard Andresen** by Carl & Diane Schroeder; **Rev. Howard Barth** by Jay & Jeanne Mackay; **Harold Bauman** by Alpha Omega LFL of WI Chapter #76, Jeannette Bauman, William & Dorothy Duchow, Mark & Maureen Neuser, Minda Portz, Rev. William & Elaine Uffenbeck; **Hillis Becker** by Hugo & Muriel Armbrecht, Dorothy Edler; **Bertha Behrens** by Opal Bohlman; **Don Brockman** by Stevie Herndon; **Garland Bruning** by Rev. & Mrs. Don Meyer; **Cecil Defoor** by Rev. Bruce & Barbara Kaltwasser; **William Henry Dieleman** by Karen Frohwein; **Harold Van Driel** by Doug & Lynette Auch & family; **Frank Ebert** by Rev. Marvin & Joyce Flansch; **Clara Nell Enzor** by Stevie Herndon; **Bruno Galovy** by Ron & Carol Jochimsen; **Helen Gjertson** by John & Debra Haugen; **Jonathan Haberkost** by Allan & Donna Benson; **Harold Happel** by Rev. & Mrs David Steege; **Robert Hirsch** by Doug & Lynette Auch; **John Hillman** by a friend; **Vernon Hollrah** by Hugo & Muriel Armbrecht; **Vera Humbert** by Stevie Herndon; **Katherine Grace Kempin** by John & Karen DeSloover; **Herman Lakamp** by Rev. Bruce & Deb Lakamp; **Mrs Eugene Linse** by Ruth Proft Dannehl; **Orval Loven** by his family; **Maxine** (sister of Allan C Martin) by Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Barhite; **Beatrice Merians** by Mr. & Mrs. Harold Krauss; **Emily Elizabeth Mills** by Ronald & Charla Mills; **Walter Mills** by Ronald & Charla Mills; **My mother's birthday** by Erna Ockenga; **Milton Papham** by Stevie Herndon; **Ada Piepenbrink** by Jay & Jeanne Mackay; **Mrs Joy Podeszwa** by Rockford Area Lutherans for Life, Rockford, IL; **Sarah Lynn Prather** by Rev. & Mrs. Adrian Sherrill & children; **Earl Rames** by Doug & Lynette Auch & family; **Georgeanna Sahl** by Margaret Roever; **Lauren Schmid** by Bob & Erna Schmid; **Nora Schrim** by Opal Bohlman; **Dr Arthur Smith** by Emil & Virginia Eggert; **Eilene Van Osdel** by Doug & Lynette Auch & family; **Seth Watters** by Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Johnson; **Roland Wengert, Jr** by Hugo & Muriel Armbrecht; **Marvin D Winter** by Mr. & Mrs. Harold Krauss; **Rev Jerome Wohlfeil** by Helen Bunge

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**Adopted grandson's 13th birthday** by Glen & Dorothy Clayton; **Barbara** by Dean & Deanna Hobelmann; **Natalie Bartlett, Stephanie Kindel, Ansel Lee, Christine Remus, Orin Sell** (confirmands at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Green River, WY) by Glennise & Michael Wendorf; **Samuel Aaron Bohling** (birth of) by Lavon & Fern Bohling; **Pastor Larry Fett** (birthday) by Marcel & Deborah Kohlmeyer; **Judy Gloede** (birthday) by Esther Oehme; **Joan Grotelueschen** (mother's day) by Mark & Alison Grotelueschen & family; **Jim Lamb** (birthday) by Chris & Meredith Lamb; **Pam** by Clara Heinemann; **Stuart Schluckebier** (60th birthday) by Marwood & Joann Frank; **Tina Marie Sherrill** by Rev. & Mrs. Adrian Sherrill & children; **Elgin & Elaine Tonniges** (50th wedding anniversary) by Don & Norma Troester

**Our Mission . . .** To witness to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God. LFL has 14 state federations, 150 local chapters, and 745 Life Ministry Coordinators in the United States.

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

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

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