

# LifeDate

Fall  
2015



A quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life

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**Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life!**



# Lutherans For Life

Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

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## Shock Waves to Ripples

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

Already we see the shock wave reduced to mere ripples. The undercover video showing Planned Parenthood's senior director of medical services, Deborah Nuttola, casually discussing over lunch the altering of abortion procedures to preserve vital body parts for sale to researchers caused an enormous shock wave. Organizations immediately put out press releases, called press conferences, and issued statements. Members of Congress vowed to start investigations. Even national broadcast media covered the story.

But as I write this less than a week later—ripples. Even a subsequent video seems to be viewed as less shocking. To be honest, I'm not sure why people were so shocked in the first place. The nation's largest provider of abortions, Planned Parenthood, and other organizations where the vulnerable are murdered have been dehumanizing unborn babies for decades. They must do this to validate their inhuman actions. They speak of "*reproductive* rights" and "*products* of conception" and "*viable tissue*." When human life has been reduced to a "*product*," why are we so surprised when those who do so want to sell and profit by their product? Plus, it has the added benefits of salving consciences and helping with the untidy task of disposing of dead babies.

Don't get me wrong. I'm glad for the shock wave and for the reaction that ensued. It raises awareness and helps more people see the existence of a bloody darkness behind the word "abortion" that we use so frequently and indifferently. It also gives us opportunity to examine ourselves and ask if we are perhaps stuck in a comfortable complacency. After all, it seems as though the shock of the ongoing butchery of abortion 2,800 times each day and the assault on women and families that accompanies it day after day has been reduced to ripples, does it not?

I count myself among those who need an occasional shock to help me rethink and regroup. But what I have learned over the years is that being shocked and reacting to shocking revelations is not enough. Being anti-abortion or anti-Planned Parenthood is not enough. We need to be For Life! But more, we need to be For Life because God is! Even more, we need to be For Life because God is as an ongoing part of what we do as God's people gathered by His Spirit in local congregations.

Think about it. We have some shocking news. "God became a speck, an embryo in a fallopian tube!" "God was born!" "God lived as a friend of sinners." "God embraced dirty, smelly sinners!" "God suffered for unlovable and unloving sinners!" "God died!" "God rose again!" "God wins!" "Sin, death, Satan defeated!" "God reigns over all!"

That's the most positive and powerful shocking For Life news I can think of. As I love to say, it is tailor made for these issues of life and death, pain and suffering, grief and regret. Have you been shocked by the Planned Parenthood news and the ongoing tragedy of abortion? If so, good for you! Have you been shocked by the Good News of God's great love For Life? If so, even better for you! Is affirming life part of the ongoing ministry of your congregation? If not, maybe now is the time to make that happen. We at LFL are ready to help and equip you to do so. Give us a call. We do not want the shock wave of the Gospel of Life to ever become a ripple.

## The Soul Wound of Abortion

by Diane E. Schroeder, former president of Lutherans For Life

Abortion is a loss that wounds the soul. Mothers of aborted children lose not only their child but also a vision of themselves as nurturers and caregivers. They often condemn themselves for failing to protect their child from those whom they see as destroying their opportunity to be a mother—whether it be a boyfriend, husband, or parent, and, of course, the abortionist. Many fathers are torn apart because they were unable to protect their unborn child. Grandparents, friends, and siblings of aborted children also suffer losses of relationships and self-esteem.

For all the millions of walking wounded in our society, for those who have had an abortion or have been affected by an abortion decision, there is a **Word of Hope**—Lutherans For Life’s healing ministry. **Word of Hope** connects men and women “soul wounded” through the act of abortion to the forgiveness and healing that comes only through knowing that God loves you and sent His Son to free you from the guilt of all sin—including abortion.



**Word of Hope** started in 1991. The mission of **Word of Hope** is quite simple: to bring the healing of Jesus Christ to those whose hearts are broken by abortion. **Word of Hope** answers the question so many have: “Do you really think God can forgive me for this, even taking my baby’s life?” The answer is a resounding YES! Scripture assures us of God’s love and forgiveness even when we feel unworthy. “**But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us**” (Romans 5:8).

**Word of Hope** receives an average of 275 calls per month and between five and ten emails per day from women and men in need of help—in need of someone who will listen to what they are feeling. They need to talk to someone who won’t judge them, but instead help them realize that they are not alone and offer hope and healing through Christ.

“I have told no one. I need help ...  
Will God’s light ever shine on me again?” *Linda*

“I feel ashamed and guilty ... I am wondering if you have any advice  
because I am so heart broken and devastated.” *Carol*

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our  
sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Many women call because they are pregnant and considering abortion. Some are being pressured to abort by boyfriends, parents, friends—and sometimes even doctors. These women need to be told about the help available to them through their local pregnancy center. They need to understand that abortion is forever and will not solve their problem. It will make their situation worse.

All who call **Word of Hope** are treated with respect and compassion. We listen to their story and offer spiritual counsel. Those involved in an abortion decision need to hear over and over about the love of Christ and that through Him, they are forgiven. (The forgiveness is there. It is real. They need to decide to hold on to it.)

**Word of Hope** is there for you, your family and friends, your church—all who are searching for healing following an abortion. You can help get the word out!

- Establish a link to **Word of Hope** on your church's website ([www.lutheransforlife.org/about/word-of-hope](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/about/word-of-hope) or [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)).
- Ads, posters, and bulletin announcements are available at [www.lutheransforlife.org/media/downloads](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/media/downloads).
- Post-abortion resources from Lutherans For Life are available through Concordia Publishing House ([www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org)) and at [www.lutheransforlife.org/life-issues/after-the-abortion](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/life-issues/after-the-abortion).

You can be the one who connects a grieving mother—or father—to the healing they so desperately need.

## Get Involved Today!

- As a Lutherans For Life supporter, you decide how you can help! It might be through an **annual membership gift** or a **monthly or quarterly sponsor gift**.
- **Volunteers** can become involved locally. (Start a Life Team in your congregation!)
- **Because of you, LFL is impacting thousands of people annually through the Gospel of Christ.**
- Contact us—or go to the LFL website—to find out more ways to help, including: **Combined Federal Campaign** – (LFL ID# 11508), **Automatic Bank Drafts**, **Employer Matching Gifts**, **Planned Gifts**, **Online Shopping Rebates through iGive.com**, [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com).
- Be sure to find out more about **Real Estate for Life**. It is an easy way for you to help LFL by using funds a real estate company has already earmarked for commission fees at no extra cost to you.

[www.lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life)  
877.543.3871; [proliferealestate@yahoo.com](mailto:proliferealestate@yahoo.com)



## The Supreme Court Ruling on Marriage

Lutherans For Life mourns with others who mourn the great tragedy of the Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* forbidding states to outlaw same-sex marriage. This ruling is an affront to the U.S. Constitution, natural law, a centuries-old universally recognized union, and plain old common sense. Most tragically, it is an affront to the Creator of life, He who instituted marriage, and His Son, Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom of the Church.

Remember David's cry as he ran into battle against Goliath? "I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied." David understands that Goliath, in his arrogance, is defying God. I pray all Christians will understand that this ruling also defies God's laws. I pray we will share David's courage and not only stand firm in the midst of persecution that is certain to come, but also take the offensive as we strongly and confidently proclaim and practice God's truth about the sanctity of marriage. I pray we will be what the Church is supposed to be, a place where Christ shares His Word and Sacrament with His people, where Christians are salt and light in a broken and perverse world. I pray we will always reflect Christ's love for all sinners, including ourselves.

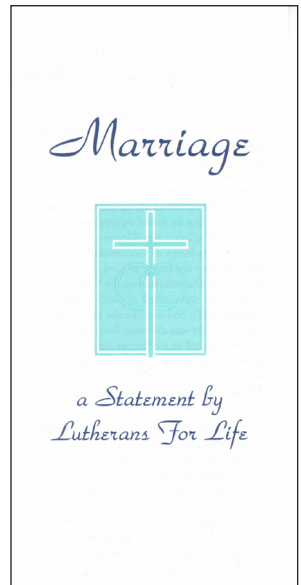
What follows is a portion of LFL's statement on marriage that addresses same-sex marriage and a unique perspective by LFL board member, Colonel John Eidsmoe. (Our complete statement on marriage may be read and ordered through this link: [www.lutheransforlife.org/article/marriage-a-statement-by-lutherans-for-life](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/article/marriage-a-statement-by-lutherans-for-life).)

### From Lutherans For Life's "Statement on Marriage" ...

Lutherans For Life affirms the great blessing of the institution of marriage as revealed in God's holy Word. We affirm that marriage is a God-given institution between a man and a woman. We affirm that this one-flesh union reflects our relationship with our Creator and Redeemer. We affirm that it is the means God has chosen for procreation.

Based on this, we are compelled to humble ourselves before God and ask His forgiveness for all the times we have dishonored marriage by trivializing its importance, by neglecting to reflect Christ's love in our marriages, and by failing to connect the importance of marriage to our relationship with God.

Based on this, we are also compelled to reject homosexual unions as contrary to the Word of God. The "sameness" of homosexuals prevents a one-flesh union as well as the possibility of the procreation of children. Such unions do not and cannot reflect our relationship with our Creator and Redeemer. Such unions are based on a lie rather than the Word of God (Romans 1:25) and cannot constitute a marriage.



## Statement Regarding *Obergefell v. Hodges* Decision by Col. John Eidsmoe

I was wrong.

Perhaps I was naive, but I really believed Justice Kennedy when he wrote in the Windsor decision, “[R]egulation of domestic relations is an area that has long been regarded as a virtually exclusive province of the States.” I thought he would say the states have a right to determine whether same-sex marriage will be legal or illegal within their respective jurisdictions.

But instead, the Court used an illegitimate means to reach an unconstitutional result that allows invalid unions for the perpetration of immoral conduct.

**Illegitimate means?** Two justices who by all reasonable standards should have recused participated in this ruling. Both Justice Ginsburg and Justice Kagan had previously performed same-sex weddings, and Justice Ginsburg even performed a same-sex wedding after the oral arguments took place and made statements to the effect that same-sex marriage is a constitutional right. She clearly had her mind made up and could not consider this case objectively, and therefore she should have recused. In my 45-year legal career, I’ve never seen a case in which the facts more clearly called for recusal, and yet Justices Kagan and Ginsburg refused to recuse. If they had both recused, the vote would have been 4-3 to uphold the Sixth Circuit and the same-sex marriage laws of Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee. If only Justice Ginsburg had recused, the vote would have been 4-4, which would have affirmed the Sixth Circuit decision. Justice Scalia said in dissent, fn 22, “If, even as the price to be paid for a fifth vote, I ever joined an opinion for the Court that began: ‘The Constitution promises liberty to all within its reach, a liberty that includes certain specific rights that allow persons, within a lawful realm, to define and express their identity,’ I would hide my head in a bag.” Because of these illegitimate means for putting together a five-vote majority, the decision deserves neither respect nor recognition.

**Unconstitutional result?** Nothing in the Constitution either explicitly or implicitly recognizes a right to same-sex marriage. The key language of Justice Kennedy’s opinion says, “The generations that wrote and ratified the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment did not presume to know the extent of freedom in all of its dimensions, and so they entrusted to future generations a charter protecting the rights of all persons to enjoy liberty as we learn its meaning.” That in itself would be dangerous, but as Justice Scalia noted in dissent, “The ‘we,’ needless to say, is the nine of us” – a majority vote of nine lawyers, unelected and holding office virtually for life. The effect of Justice Kennedy’s ruling is that federal judges are no longer bound by the plain wording of the Constitution as understood and intended by its Framers, but rather are free to make the words of the Constitution mean anything they want them to mean. Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Kentucky Resolves, “In questions of power, then, let no more be said of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief with the chains of the Constitution.” The purpose of the Constitution was to define and restrain government power, not to allow federal judges to roam at large in the trackless fields of their own imaginations.

**Invalid unions?** From the beginning of time, the laws of nature and of nature’s God have been very clear: marriage is between one man and one woman. Genesis chapters 1 and 2 tell us that God established marriage between a man and a woman, and the laws and customs of nearly every society past and present have recognized only male/female unions as marriages. I question whether any agency of human government has the authority to re-define an institution established by God. But at the very least, such social upheaval should be brought about by the people through their elected representatives, not by the 5-4 vote of an unelected court.

**Immoral conduct?** The Bible forbids homosexual conduct, as have the laws of nearly all societies throughout history. God’s moral law does not change with time and place, with opinion polls, or even with court decisions. Isaiah 5:20: “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil.”

Because the Obergefell decision is an illegitimate means of reaching an unconstitutional result to establish invalid unions for the perpetration of immoral conduct, this decision should not be accorded the force and effect of law. Other branches and levels of government should interpose on behalf of the people they represent to preserve for their people the right and power to define marriage in accord with the laws of nature and of nature’s God. This should be done by legal means if possible, but if necessary, **“We must obey God rather than men”** (Acts 5:29).

*Col. John Eidsmoe is Senior Counsel and Resident Scholar at the Foundation for Moral Law (www.morallaw.org) and national Lutherans For Life board member.*



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## Postmodern Morality:

### Attacking God's Standards for Marriage and Procreation

by Ryan C. MacPherson

When the French political theorist Alexis de Tocqueville visited America in the 1830s, he was struck by something he couldn't quite express—and so he coined a new word to describe the American spirit: “individualism.” Each man thought he could do whatever he pleased. Tocqueville, however, was astonished that despite rampant individualism, Americans formed cohesive, stable communities. He attributed this stability to the moral force of religion. America's founding fathers agreed: nothing but religious virtue could ensure an *ordered* liberty that would sustain the republic.

Since the 1960s, however, a new kind of individualism has become dominant in American culture—one that pushes away rather than embraces religion. This new individualism opposes Christianity while celebrating self-made “spirituality.” When sociologist Robert Bellah attempted to apply Tocqueville's analysis to late-twentieth-century America, he discovered it no longer fit; Americans had become too fragmented by their own personal ambitions to work together within a shared moral tradition.

Some observers refer to our current age as “postmodern.” Postmodernism characteristically rejects all external standards for truth and morality and celebrates people's private whims. Postmodernism comes in two common varieties: relativism and subjectivism. A *relativist* thinks that *society* gets to invent the truth; a *subjectivist* thinks that each *individual* may do so. Neither one believes that there can be any truth except what we, whether collectively or individually, invent.

Often, relativism and subjectivism work in harmony as they jointly challenge the objective moral order of God's creation. For example, in *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* (1992), the Supreme Court placed its stamp of approval on subjectivism by claiming that every woman has a right to an abortion since everyone is free “to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life.” In the same ruling, the Court also championed relativism, noting that during the decades since *Roe v. Wade* (1973), society had become so accustomed to abortion-on-demand that the Court felt obligated to accept this as the new normal.

In *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003), the Court quoted the subjective “mystery of human life” clause from *Casey* to affirm that every person has a right to practice sodomy if he or she so chooses. Once again, this subjectivism walked hand-in-hand with relativism, as the Court extended the *Lawrence* ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) to validate an emerging social consensus in favor of same-sex marriage. Nearly 400 major corporations signed off on a “friend of the court” brief urging that marriage be redefined to include same-sex couples. Whether a teenager succumbs to peer pressure or the nation's highest court is swayed by the sheer number of wealthy sponsors to a case, the philosophical foundation is the same: relativism, or whatever the social consensus decides is right, must be right.

Some church bodies have followed—and even trail-blazed—the path to relativism, such as when a convention of a liberal denomination votes to solemnize same-sex unions or to declare abortion morally acceptable. This strategy is nothing new. About

3,500 years ago the Israelites rallied around a golden calf of their own making as Aaron fulfilled their wishes by declaring, “**These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!**” (Exodus 32:4, ESV). Of course, relativism does not actually create the truth; relativism is merely the mistaken notion that people are capable of creating truth by their own consensus.

God’s Law shouts an emergency wake-up call for those who have persuaded themselves that they can re-invent morality as they choose: such people are destroying themselves and others and they need to be rescued. For the most part, they realize this already. Their guilt eats away at them every day. That is why they continue to lie to themselves that there are no objective standards, and that they are free to invent their own morality as they go along. That is why they have pleaded for the government to take their side, to publicly proclaim that their lifestyle is good and acceptable and worthy of constitutional protection. The new public policy placates their guilt.

God’s Law will not suffice to remedy the problem. It is the Gospel that provides the rescue: Jesus forgives and loves and welcomes to heaven the subjectivist women who have said, “My body, my choice.” Jesus forgives and loves and welcomes to heaven the relativist judges who have said, although polishing their statements in fancy legalese, “If enough same-sex couples want to live like that, why not call it a good thing and have the government publicly approve them?”

Unfortunately, the prisoners of subjectivism and relativism do not desire the love God offers; they claim they do not need to be forgiven, for they deny that they have done anything wrong. They push away not only God’s Law, but far worse, the Gospel.

In addition to His Word, God has given the gift of natural law. Written in the hearts of all people is God’s design for human nature. Deep within the human conscience, reality talks back, reducing to silence the postmodern claim that morality is whatever anybody wants it to be. After all, if abortion really was okay, then why do women (and the men in their lives) suffer so much trauma from the guilt of it? And if homosexual relationships really were so wholesome, then why, again, is homosexual behavior correlated so strongly with debilitating diseases and significantly shortened lifespans? Why, indeed, have GLBTQ activists worked so relentlessly to compel the entire nation to affirm them, forcing florists and photographers to cater to same-sex celebrations in affirmation of the new “morality”?

Clearly, all sinners’ consciences bother them and will continue to do so until one of two things happens: they silence their conscience by coercing an entire civilization to affirm their self-made “morality”; or, they collapse at the foot of the cross to receive forgiveness from the One who truly did invent morality and, just as truly, fulfilled all righteousness for their sakes as much as for yours and mine. In the end, the debate is not really about abortion or homosexuality or even postmodernism. The literal “crux” of the matter is the Cross: do we attempt to justify ourselves by redefining morality to fit our lifestyles, or do we regard ourselves as sinners in need of Christ’s forgiveness and ask Him to send His Holy Spirit so that we may empowered to live a new kind of life?

*Ryan C. MacPherson, Ph.D., a member of the LFL speakers bureau, teaches at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota. He also is the founding president of the Hausvater Project ([www.hausvater.org](http://www.hausvater.org)) and the author of “The Culture of Life: Ten Essential Principles for Christian Bioethics.”*

## Biblical Biology?

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

No, the Bible is not a biology textbook. It is God’s revelation of Himself in Jesus Christ and the story of our salvation by grace and through faith in Him. God, however, does know about biology. He created it, including procreative biology. After the creation of Adam and Eve, God laid aside the “dirt and rib” method and established a biological process for new life. He gave the context for this process, the one-flesh union of man and woman in marriage. But that does not mean He has removed His creative hand from conception and development in the womb. Let’s examine a few passages.

### Womb Weaving

**“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well”** (Psalm 139:13-14 NIV).

The Holy Spirit’s knowledge of procreative biology is evident throughout Scripture. The phrase “conceived and bore” is used frequently. Biblical people understood there was a process involved in procreation. The Holy Spirit, of course, understood the intricacies of the process. Perhaps that is best reflected in the verses from Psalm 139.

Rich in Hebrew idioms, these verses are likewise rich in meaning. The King James helps bring out the idiom in the first phrase. “For Thou hast possessed my reins.” However, that doesn’t help us understand the original language. “Reins” is the Hebrew word for kidney. This was the last or “deepest” organ removed in the sacrificial process. Thus it became idiomatic for a person’s inner self or heart or “inmost being.” So first God creates us, our inmost being.

This is consistent with biology. Conception takes place in the fallopian tube when sperm and egg are joined. When that process was completed in your mother’s fallopian tube, you were you—male or female, tall or short, brown eyes or blue eyes, etc. You developed rapidly as you traveled to the uterus. There you attached yourself to the

weeks



uterine wall, and the outside layer of your cells produced your placenta and umbilical cord. Meanwhile, other cells began to shift and change, forming your body.

That's the flow we see in the Psalm. “[Y]ou knit me together” is literally translated to read: “you wove a covering for me.” So God creates us in the fallopian tube and then in the uterus knits or weaves a covering for us, our bodies! Therefore the Psalmist's conclusion must be ours: **“I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”** And so is every human being, a unique and valuable work of God's hands.

### Womb Leaping

**“As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy”** (Luke 1:44).

This leaping babe is John the Baptist. He is eleven to fourteen inches long and weighs just under two pounds. This is a busy time of tactile stimulation for him, and exploring the inside of the uterus is grand entertainment. He touches his face, feet, umbilical cord, uterine wall, and anything he can get his tiny little hands on! The inner ear bones have hardened, so listening to sounds becomes another fascination. He can recognize and remember his mother's voice and dad's too if dad talks to him. Can't you just picture Zechariah leaning over Elizabeth's abdomen and reciting the Torah?

But this day he hears a special greeting from Aunt Mary who had come to visit. And guided by the Holy Spirit, John understands much more. The Spirit had just conceived Jesus in her womb a few days ago (more on this below). He is present in Mary as a small dot the size of a pinpoint and probably busy snuggling into her uterine wall. John does not react like a “product of conception” or “viable fetal tissue.” He reacts like a little person with animated emotion, leaping for joy in the presence of his Savior whose way He would prepare. Ah, yes, Horton was right. “A person's a person no matter how small.”

### Womb Woes

**“Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me”** (Psalm 51:5).

There are a couple of times in the Scripture where the “conceived and bore” process is turned around, in the Psalm above and in Hosea 9:11, **“Ephraim's glory will fly away like a bird—no birth, no pregnancy, no conception.”** In both cases it signals bad news. In Hosea God pronounces judgment upon His rebellious and whoring people. Things will be so bad there will be no births. Even worse, there will be no pregnancies because there will be no conceptions.

In Psalm 51, David is bemoaning his sins of adultery and murder. He progresses from admitting he is a sinner, to admitting he is sinful, to admitting he was sinful from birth, and, worse than that, he was sinful from the moment of his conception. Here we learn of the doctrine of original sin inherited from our parents Adam and Eve and deadly to all. But we also learn of our early humanity. Sin is a human condition. If we are sinful at conception, we are human at conception.

Still, the news is bad. Sinful from conception means hopeless and helpless from conception, subject to death the moment life begins. For there to be hope and help,

we need a Savior from the moment of conception. Thanks be to God, we have one!

### Womb Winner

“But the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord will give him the throne of his father David’” (Luke 1:30-32).

Here we see the process again, “conceive” and “give birth to.” But this particular process reveals a miraculous difference. Mary conceived, not by procreative biology, but by the intervention of divinity. A holy embryo is conceived, a God-embryo taking our place from the moment of conception and passing through all the stages of our development to redeem our sinful beginning and development. Now there is help and hope from the moment of conception! Jesus would develop and be born and live and suffer and die and rise again and ascend into heaven. He wins!

When we leave the underwater world of the womb and are splashed in the waters of Holy Baptism, we live under water again—the waters of God’s grace in Jesus. Baptized into Christ, we share in His victory. In Him, we win! Now we can continue to grow, nourished by His umbilical cord of Word and Sacrament. Now we can value and uphold the sanctity of all life from conception, during pregnancy, at birth, and until death births us into eternity.



**Since Roe v. Wade in 1973: 57,762,169 abortions in America**

Source: [www.lifenews.com/2015/01/21/57762169-abortions-in-america-since-roe-vs-wade-in-1973](http://www.lifenews.com/2015/01/21/57762169-abortions-in-america-since-roe-vs-wade-in-1973)

**Hurting from Abortion?**

**A Word of Hope can help • 888-217-8679 • Confidential and Caring**

**[www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)**

Word of Hope is a ministry of Lutherans For Life



**A United Kingdom man known only as “Martin” with locked-in syndrome has lost a High Court battle regarding his wish to be killed.** His lawyers said that advice from the General Medical Council interfered with people who wanted to die. However, judges ruled that the current advice was lawful, referencing the fact that aiding and abetting suicide is a crime in the UK. (*BBC News*, 7/20/15; *SPUC*, 7/22/15)

**A pharmacy in Seville, Spain, has won the right to refuse to sell morning-after pills, some of which are abortifacient.** The pharmacy has won the right to refuse selling the MAP despite being fined €3,000 (approximately \$4600) in 2008 for not selling morning-after pills or condoms. The constitutional court has overturned the decision on appeal, stating that the pharmacy’s “right to ‘ideological freedom’ was violated by the sanction.” The pharmacy can now refuse to sell the morning-after pill. However, the court said the pharmacy must still provide condoms, stating it saw “no conflict of conscience with constitutional relevance” there. (*Telegraph*, 7/7/15; *SPUC*, 7/9/15)

**Australian euthanasia advocate Dr. Philip Nitschke won an appeal from the Northern Territory Supreme Court to retain his medical license.** Nitschke’s license was suspended in July 2014 by the Medical Board of Australia after he admitted counseling 45-year-old Perth man Nigel Brayley to take his own life despite knowing he was not terminally ill. (*CLR Life News*, 7/8/15)

**The editorial board of *The Economist*, a prestigious and well-regarded weekly magazine based in London, England, has endorsed physician assisted suicide.** In a provocative editorial, the board writes: “Competent adults are allowed to make other momentous, irrevocable choices: to undergo a sex change or to have an abortion. People deserve the same control over their own death.” Under the guise of “choice,” pro-life advocates say a magazine focused on economic analysis would find ending the lives of individuals easier and cheaper rather than providing adequate care. (*CLR Life News*, 7/1/15)

**A professor at Hull University has written a report which revealed “around one in every sixty deaths of a patient under GP care involves someone who has not requested euthanasia.”** Authored by Professor Raphael Cohen-Almagor of Hull University and published by the *Journal of Medical Ethics*, the report brings into question the existing euthanasia laws in Belgium. Cohen-Almagor states: “The decision as to which life is no longer worth living is not in the hands of the patient but in the hands of the doctor.” (*Daily Mail*, 6/11/15; *John Smeaton*, 6/17/15)

To learn about the international outreach of Lutherans For Life, go to [www.lutheransforlife.org/about/international](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/about/international). Through special gifts and grants to Lutherans For Life, we are able to offer several of our brochures in Russian and Spanish.



**Number of abortions worldwide:  
Per year: approximately 42 million  
Per day: approximately 115,000  
Source: [abortionno.org](http://abortionno.org); National Right to Life**

# LFL Resources on Fetal Development



**Fetal Model** – This 11-12 week unborn baby model with informational “Young One” card makes a great giveaway. *Item LFL1303. \$0.60 ea.*

**Precious Feet Pin** – These pins are the size and shape of an unborn baby’s feet 10-12 weeks after conception. Gold: *Item LFL1301. \$1.95 ea.* Silver: *Item LFL1301SV. \$1.95 ea.*

**Precious Hands Pin** – These pins are the size and shape of an unborn baby’s hands 10-12 weeks after conception. Gold: *Item LFL1302. \$1.95 ea.* Silver: *LFL1302SV. \$1.95 ea.*

**Life Before Birth** – A full color, pocket-size brochure with beautiful photographs of the pre-born child developing through the first nine months of life. *Item LFL108T. \$0.50 ea.*

**What About the Facts of Life?** – The facts about sex are only the beginning of the facts of life. Do you know the amazing facts about the first nine months of your life? This excellent full-color brochure will tell you. English: *Item LFL112T. \$0.75 ea.* Spanish: *Item LFL113T. \$0.75 ea.*

**Watch Me Grow brochure** – This beautifully illustrated brochure documents the growth stages of a baby for nine months in the womb using the artwork from the popular Watch Me Grow poster series. Appropriate for all ages. *Item LFL125T. \$0.50 ea.*

**Watch Me Grow Poster** – All nine months of life in the womb illustrated on one 24” x 30” poster. *Item LFL101P. \$25.00 ea.*

**Watch Me Grow Posters Ten Piece Set** – This beautifully illustrated collection of ten 16” X 20” posters documents the growth stages of a baby for nine months in the womb. These posters are an excellent teaching tool for schools, hospitals, caring pregnancy centers, or doctors’ offices. Display them individually, on a monthly basis, or as a set. *Item LFL100P. \$35.00*

**Watch Me Grow Posters Eleven Piece Set** – If you purchase this beautifully illustrated collection of ten 16” X 20” posters documenting the growth stages of a baby for nine months in the womb, plus the 24” x 30” composite poster, you pay only \$50 for all eleven posters. This is a \$60 value! *Item LFL102P. \$50.00*



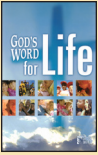
**Best Way to Order LFL Resources:** At [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org) or 800.325.3040.

Shipping/handling applies to all orders. Quantity pricing on select resources.

# More LFL Resources

including *GOD'S WORD for Life*

Along with abortion, Lutherans For Life offers Word-based resources on adoption, bioethics, end-of-life, family living, fetal development, sexual purity, and more.



## GOD'S WORD for Life Bible

A ONE-OF-A-KIND RESOURCE – **ON SALE!**

**Paperback:** Item LFL1618, \$1.50 ea.; **Hardcover:** Item LFL1619, \$10.00 ea.;  
**Leather:** Item FL1619C, \$12.50 ea.

## DVDs

**The Other End of Life** takes a look at end-of-life issues. Item LFL1409DVD. **\$5.00 ea.**

**Hope for Broken Hearts – The Gospel and Post-Abortion Syndrome** – Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb examines how the Gospel of Jesus Christ speaks so powerfully to women and men struggling in the aftermath of an abortion. Item LFL1407DVD. **\$5.00 ea.**

**The Abundant Life** – Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb helps us better understand what Jesus meant when He said in John 10:10 that He came to give us an abundant life. Item LFL1408DVD. **\$5.00 ea.**

## More Resources

**Educational Resource Manual – Digital Edition** – A credit-card sized USB drive featuring PDFs and video files of many of LFL's resources. Item LFL1607USB. **\$15.00 ea.**

**Tips for Teens on How to Say “No”** – UPDATED – Item LFL602T. **\$0.50 ea.**

**God's Word for an Unplanned Pregnancy** – Linda Luecke writes, “The God who made you knows and loves you. He urges you to choose life today.” Item LFL912. **\$1.00 ea.**

**Scripture Quotations** – Quotes from the English Standard Version related to the life issues. Item LFL204T. **\$1.50 ea.**

**Speak Up For Life** – This booklet takes a look at life issues based on Luther's Small Catechism—and is sized to insert right into the catechism itself! Item LFL212B. **\$0.50 ea.**

**A Lutheran Catechism on Abortion and Life** – A question and answer primer on abortion and life by David A. Kaufmann, Ph.D., F.A.C.S.M. Item LFL104B. **\$1.00 ea.**



**Best Way to Order LFL Resources:** At [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org) or 800.325.3040.  
Shipping/handling applies to all orders. Quantity pricing on select resources.

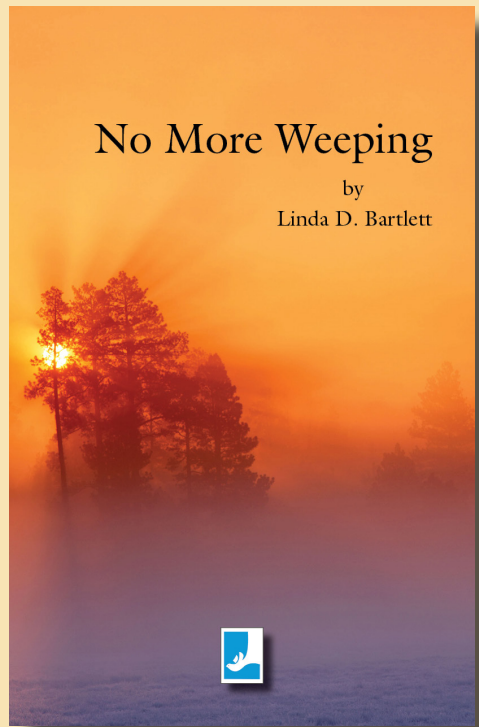


# No More Weeping

A new booklet by Linda Bartlett

"No More Weeping" (Item LFL408; \$2.00 ea.) is written for those who are suffering from an abortion decision. Author Linda Bartlett says, "Only God can heal the sin of abortion. As the Creator of life, only He can forgive the wrongful taking of a life. The Creator of life is also our Father and, unlike our earthly father who is not without sin, our Heavenly Father's love for us is perfect and without flaw. You may feel very alone in the sorrow of your abortion, but you are not. There are many others who are grieving their abortion in silence. The Spirit of God helps in times of silent weakness [Romans 8:26]. Through the Holy Spirit, all who are broken can claim God's forgiveness in Jesus Christ."

**Best Way to Order LFL Resources:** At [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org) or 800.325.3040. Shipping/handling applies to all orders. Quantity pricing on select resources.



Order LFL's Teaching For Life® at [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org)

## Teaching For Life®

[www.lutheransforlife.org/store-teaching-for-life](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/store-teaching-for-life)

**Teaching For Life®** teaches nine key pro-life concepts by giving ideas on how to integrate them into religion, math, social studies, etc.

**Teaching For Life®** offers lessons for five grade levels (PK-K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8) and provides the teacher with all that is needed to teach a key life concept each month.

### Lesson Plans and CD

**Grades PK-K.** Item LFL720C. **\$49.99 ea.**

**Grades 1-2.** Item LFL721C. **\$49.99 ea.**

**Grades 3-4.** Item LFL723C. **\$49.99 ea.**

**Grades 5-6.** Item LFL725C. **\$49.99 ea.**

**Grades 7-8.** Item LFL727C. **\$49.99 ea.**

Complete package/45 lesson plans/CD/  
all grade levels: Item LFL729C. **\$199.99**

# ONLINE

## Teaching For Life®

**Online** is LFL's latest means of "equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life"! This self-study, online course is designed for junior high through adult. **And it's FREE!** The course is based on nine key For Life concepts and instructs on all the basic life issues.

It's easy, fun, self-paced, and packed full of Word-based and Gospel-centered For Life information. Find it at the link below.

We pray you will enjoy learning and that you will become equipped to help others become Gospel-motivated voices For Life!

[www.lutheransforlife.org/media/teaching-for-life-online](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/media/teaching-for-life-online)

## Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

by Lynette Auch, president of national Lutherans For Life

Any who have helped work a Lutherans For Life or other life-affirming display booth can feel the excitement—especially if your display includes the *Touch of Life* fetal models. It can be fun and quite rewarding to share with anyone who will listen about fetal development. Children are exceptionally fun! Their eyes become as big as saucers when they are shown a pencil point and told that they were once that small! They are amazed at what they looked like as they grew. Fetal development education can also benefit adults, as it did for one young couple.



The newly married couple was anticipating a long honeymoon period in their marriage. They were absolutely not ready for the news: “you’re pregnant.” The thought was shocking and terrifying! As the young bride tried to come to grips with reality, her mind raced. She knew all the pro-life terminology, and she knew it was a baby, but she also knew that a baby meant a lot of change and responsibility—change and responsibility that overwhelmed her. Being a newlywed wife was challenging enough. The more she thought about a baby, the more frightened she became. As fear gripped her heart, she lost sight of the truth of God’s Word that she knew so well and loved so dearly, and she toyed with the unthinkable thought of “abortion.”

As she unwillingly shared these fears and thoughts with her husband, he was horrified that his bride could even entertain such an idea. He quickly found the fetal development pamphlet and the “young one” 10-week fetal model obtained from a pro-life display booth they had visited earlier that year. The young husband pointed out where their baby most likely was in its development and reminded her that another part of her life’s dream, to be a wife and a mother, had become a reality with this pregnancy.

The couple gathered around one of the young bride’s favorite chapters of Scripture speaking to God’s sovereignty, Psalm 139: **“O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar...Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens you are there, if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast”** (vs 1-2, 7-10).

(The concept of God’s sovereignty is beautifully set to music in the song “Sovereign” by Chris Tomlin. Here is my paraphrase of the lyrics: God is with us wherever we are—in life’s calm or storms, in our greatest joy or deepest cry, in the dark or in the dawn. He has all the pieces of our life from beginning to end in His everlasting arms. We can trust His unfailing love to work everything for good. We can trust God with all our hopes, needs, and dreams. All our life is held in His hands.)

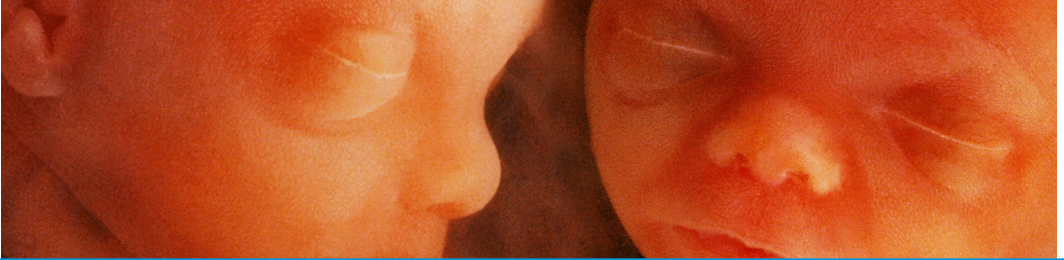
As they continued to read, the young parents imagined God knitting their tiny baby together. They knew that baby, their baby, conceived in love, was “fearfully and wonderfully made” (vs 13-14) by God. They also knew their baby was **someone** for

whom Jesus suffered, bled, died, and rose to life to give eternal life.

**“When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid”** (Psalm 56:3-4a).

Trusting in God’s sovereignty, and with the Sword of God’s Word tightly back in her hand, the once fear-filled bride trusted in her Lord Jesus to help her through this new adventure in her life’s journey. She and her husband now went forward with great anticipation and excitement about the new life growing inside of her!

This newly-wed couple had the tools that they needed to make a decision for life thanks to the tireless efforts of life-affirming friends like you. I hope this true story encourages and inspires you to continue hosting display booths at conferences and fairs everywhere, teaching about fetal development and supporting Lutherans For Life, that all may come to know that they are **someone** for whom Jesus gave His life. I also invite you to participate in Owen’s Mission! Thank you for being “Gospel-motivated voices For Life.”



## Owen’s Mission Receives \$50,000 Grant!

In June the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) awarded a Life Ministries grant of \$50,000 to Lutherans For Life to be used for **Owen’s Mission**. The goal of Owen’s Mission is to place a set of *Touch of Life* fetal models into every Lutheran elementary and high school in the country. With this grant, we have reached around 60% of our \$175,000 goal. Join us in thanking the Lord of Life for His goodness!

Join us also in thanking the LCMS Office of National Missions for making this grant possible. We have an ongoing and growing positive relationship with the LCMS through LCMS Life Ministries. We look forward to an even stronger partnership in years to come.

Someone came up to one of our displays recently and shared a story of a friend who changed her mind about an abortion after seeing the *Touch of Life* models! God is at work changing and saving lives! We believe that as young children touch and hold these little life-like babies, they will never have to face such a decision. Their minds will be made up!

If you would like to support **Owen’s Mission**, go to [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org) and click in the Give tab. If you would like a set presented to your Lutheran school or one in your area, give us a call. If you are willing to be a presenter for **Owen’s Mission**, give us a call as well.

**Find out more at: [www.lutheransforlife.org/owens-mission](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/owens-mission).**

## All about Life Teams

by Lori Trinche, Mission and Ministry Coordinator



**F**irst, the five Ws about Life Teams.

**Who:** Lutherans

**What:** Create awareness, then do something

**Where:** In your congregation and community

**When:** Now

**Why:** Because God loves life, and every life is precious to God

We are created by God, redeemed through the blood of Christ, and called through the waters of Baptism to live a new life in the Spirit, working together as brothers and sisters in Christ to share the Good News and serve as the hands and feet of Jesus in order to praise and worship God and give Him glory.

Read on as I share insight from two of our precious Life Team leaders.

### Why Start a Life Team?

*by Velda Bartel, Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, South Dakota*

Faith already had a few individuals interested in life issues who met approximately every quarter. We were able to provide our congregation with information on the gestation and development of the unborn and started a Diaper Derby—but our group lacked direction and cohesiveness. As the leader, too, I recognized that I lacked the training to effectively lead.

When I began reading about the Life Team process on the Lutherans For Life website, I believed this would be helpful and met with my pastors about it.

As a result of that meeting, Faith Lutheran Church made the decision this year to develop a Life Team. Once the decision was made, I asked each pastor to provide a list of individuals whom they felt might be interested. I then called and personally invited each one to an informational meeting that was also announced in church.

Following the clear and helpful guidelines in the training materials, I came prepared with handouts about Life Teams, showed the video, and answered questions about the team certification process and the time commitment involved. The certification process helped to bring everyone on board. It has helped to strengthen our group and broaden our understanding of life issues, and has provided a framework to enable us to discern God’s will for us in this journey.

Our team of ten is still growing and learning, but it has truly been a very rewarding experience. My prayer is that God will use our team to be “rescued rescuers” wherever and whenever He sees fit!

As one team member, Karen Lindbloom, stated, “I think a major reason for starting a Life Team would be to make people aware of all the life issues—it’s not just about abortion—then engage their support. I’ve found that there are so many related issues that I never thought about.”



**Life Team – Faith Lutheran Church, Pierre, South Dakota – (l-r) back row: Vona Johnson, Shannon Zeeb, Pastor Terry Naasz, Beth King, Margaret Baumann. Front row: Cindy Deadrick, Karen Lindbloom, Mary Heidelberger, Velda Bartel.**

## Why Every Church Should Have a Life Team

*by Pam Kuhl, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Cary, North Carolina*

I first approached our pastors around May of 2013 about addressing life issues at our church. At the time, I had been a volunteer at a local pregnancy center for about one year. At the pregnancy center, most of the clients I saw had Christian backgrounds yet still considered abortion during their time of crisis. This surprised me. Based on my observations at the pregnancy center, I realized Christians need to be more effective in communicating God’s plan for life.

Despite my passion for this ministry, I was quite anxious about addressing life issues at our church due to strong and differing opinions in this area. In my initial proposal to the pastors, I offered to act as a life coordinator for our church and to focus on abortion issues. It wasn’t until after speaking with Lori Trinché at LFL and going through LFL’s Life Team training resources that I realized a team approach would be more effective and that this team would exist to help in many areas of the life arena. We would not be just an anti-abortion team. From the training I learned that our team should work hard to become a team that is Gospel-motivated, unified, consistent, multi-faceted, trusted, resourced, interfaced, careful, and multiplied.

As a Gospel-motivated team, we serve because of the love and grace of God that we have received. As one of our Life Team members recently explained, “The purpose of the Life Team is to educate and engage our congregation on behalf of those who may be forgotten, cast away, or ignored by our society (our neighbors) and aren’t

## Spotlight on Lutherans For Life

necessarily those who benefit from other church projects and missions.” The life arena can encompass many different areas including end-of-life issues, abortion and post-abortion healing, orphan and foster care, suicide, marriage, sexual purity, and many other areas. What your team focuses on will depend upon your congregation’s unique needs. It is important to not shy away from controversial areas but to serve in a loving, Gospel-motivated way.

Our first Life Team meeting was held in September 2013. I was quite anxious about this first meeting since I had little experience leading a team. During this first meeting, I explained the “Mission Discovery Process” (MDP) that I learned about in LFL’s training, where teams develop specific strategies, goals, and a mission statement. Our team began the MDP process by soliciting observations and input from our team members and congregation on which areas of the life arena we should focus. Life Teams should progress slowly through the MDP process without worrying about planning events right away.

Looking back over the past two years, I see such growth in our team. We have truly become multi-faceted. When our team decided to host an information session for our county foster care program, we gained three new Life Team members because of their passion and life experiences in this area. As you host events on various areas of life ministry, your team will attract people with different passions, and you will increasingly gain the trust of your congregation.

With all of the suffering caused by the declining respect for the sanctity of life in our culture, now more than ever, every church needs a Life Team. Put Jesus first in your efforts! You will also find great support from LFL.

Please contact Lori Trinche today at [ltrinche@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:ltrinche@lutheransforlife.org) or 708.839.1200 ext. 225 for more information about how you can start a Life Team in your congregation. What are you waiting for?



Life Team – Resurrection Lutheran Church, Cary, North Carolina – (l-r) Heide Cassimatis, Dara Linn, Tom Kuhl, Pamela Kuhl, Gina Casselberry, Bill Timberlake, Joan Timberlake, Vicar Nathan Scheck

## “Yes, We Have a Will, but...”

by John Hawkins, Director of Development for Lutherans For Life

If you're like many people, you and your spouse (if applicable) currently have either a will or living trust in place. If so, you are to be commended! You have wisely made provisions for how your worldly assets will be distributed when you are called home to Heaven. According to a recent study, about 54% of those 55 and older currently have an estate plan.

If this is the case, does this mean you are “all set” as far as your estate is concerned? The answer is maybe—or maybe not. Among the different ways to bequeath or leave your worldly assets, let's zero in on wills for the moment.

If you are among the 54%, you may have experienced a life-changing event since you drew up the document. If so, you will want to at least review your will for potential changes to be made.

One of the most common of these is that your children have now grown up. When they were young, your will may have included a trust for minor children which is no longer needed. Other life-changing events could include:

- The death of a spouse
- You marrying or remarrying
- The birth of (a) child(ren), grandchild(ren), etc.
- The death, divorce, or marriage of a beneficiary (e.g., adult child[ren] or grandchild[ren])
- A change in the mental or physical condition or life circumstances of your executor (or alternate executor)
- Moving to another state
- Buying or selling a business
- Purchasing or selling real estate

In addition to the above, reviewing and redoing your will provides an opportunity to leave a gift to ministry. This is something you may have thought about but didn't like the idea of redoing your will just for this purpose alone (which is understandable). If you need to redo your will (or are creating a will for the first time), however, this provides a great opportunity to leave a bequest to a non-profit of your choice.

Statistically, about 10% of those with an estate plan have included a future gift of some kind for a charitable organization therein, or one in ten (or about 4-5% of the population overall, since roughly half of all households have no will or estate plan in place). A key factor in their decision to leave a gift (or add one later) can be whether a charity or ministry they care about has asked them to include a bequest for the same.

So, on behalf of Lutherans For Life (LFL), its mission of Gospel-oriented, Christ-centered life affirmation, and those to whom it ministers, I would like to ask you to consider a bequest to LFL if you decide to redo your will (or are preparing one for the first time).

Just how can you leave a bequest to the LFL via your will? There are four basic ways:

- A fixed dollar amount or percentage of your assets. Of the two, a fixed percentage is popular because if your estate grows or shrinks before you are called home, the amount that is bequeathed to LFL will likewise be adjusted automatically.
- Specific Property (e.g., Grandma’s ring, a coin collection, vacation or farm residence, etc.)
- Percent of Residuary. This is a percentage of what remains in your estate after all specific bequests have been made (e.g., to loved ones).
- Contingent. This is what might be called a “worst case scenario” bequest. In short, this is where an organization such as LFL is named as the beneficiary if (and God forbid!) any common disaster or incident should result in the death of all persons you have named as beneficiaries (e.g. your family).

Now, what wording should be used in leaving a bequest to LFL? We recommend the following: “Lutherans For Life, 1101 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Nevada, Iowa, 50201, 515-382-2077, (EIN 41-1374293), to be used at the discretion of its Board of Directors in accordance with its mission.” Of course, you will want to consult an attorney to see if you should revise your will (or create one for the first time), discuss the specific ways above to leave a bequest to LFL (and possibly other ministries), etc.

All of what is mentioned above, however, involves either creating or redoing your will. What if you have just completed a new one? What then? The answer is that you may be able to amend your will via a codocil to leave a gift for LFL.

Some years back when I was at another Lutheran organization, there was a young lady who wanted to leave \$5,000 to one of her favorite ministries; however, she had just redone her will.

She contacted her attorney about using a codicil. He said it would work and drew one up to keep all things as written in her new will, except that \$5,000 be left to “\_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran ministry” upon her death. In her case, this revision cost her under \$100 to make.

Once again, you will want to check with an attorney to see if a codicil to leave a gift to LFL will work, and if so, to prepare the amendment for you.

Also, in regards to charitable bequests, a person can avoid seeing their attorney by simply having an investment, such as a Certificate of Deposit, payable on death to Lutherans For Life. Usually this works best if you would like to leave a gift in the range of \$5,000 or \$10,000. It is also completely revocable.

In summary, I hope the thoughts shared above are helpful both in your overall estate planning and specifically on how to remember LFL via the same. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 512-468-9777 or [jhawkins@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:jhawkins@lutheransforlife.org).

*Please note this article is not intended as legal or financial advice. For assistance in specific cases, you are encouraged to seek the advice of an attorney or other professional advisor.*



## Life Thoughts in the Church Year

(Based on appointed readings from *Lutheran Service Book*)

**October 4 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost** – A parade of animals helped Adam understand that he did not need companionship but relationship, a relationship that would mirror God’s relationship with him. So God made a woman in His image. She was like Adam, but different. This difference made possible the kind of one-flesh relationship God wanted, a unity reflecting Christ and the Church. Prayer: Lord, help us honor and defend marriage as You define it. Amen.

**October 11 – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost** – “Seek good, and not evil, that you may live” (Amos 5:14a). Our culture has abandoned distinguishing between the two. Sadly many in the church do as well, especially regarding the value of life. God’s Word clearly defines evil as that which defies God’s commands. God’s Word defines good as that which flows from God in Christ—treasures, not only in heaven (Mark 10:21), but given now in Word and Sacrament. Prayer: Father, help us abhor what is evil in us and around us and give us Your Spirit so we might seek Your goodness in Jesus. Amen.

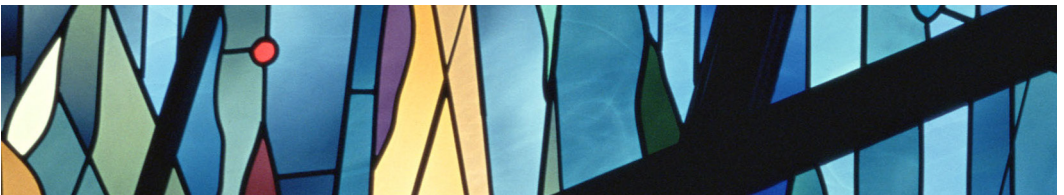
**October 18 – Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost** – Entering the kingdom of God is only possible through God’s grace in Jesus (Mark 10:27). Standing up for this truth and all the truths that support it often requires sacrifice. But we do so trusting in our God who promises us “a hundredfold” blessings now and in eternity (10:30). Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for calling us into Your Kingdom. Help us uphold and share its truths. Amen.

**October 25 – Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost** – What a healing message the Gospel brings for us blinded by sin in our lives. “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you” (Mark 10:49b). Whatever our sin, we can seek His mercy and receive healing for our troubled hearts. Prayer: Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! Amen.

**November 1 – All Saints’ Day** – Persecution of Christians continues to increase in our country. Bring it on! “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven” (Matthew 5:12a). Declared saints now in Jesus, we look forward to an eternity of sainthood where God “will wipe away every tear from [our] eyes” (Revelation 7:17b). Prayer: Father, give us courage to live as Your saints in the face of persecution. Amen.

**November 8 – Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost** – Sometimes Christians face difficult decisions about life. Should we remove the ventilator or not? Should we discontinue the treatment or not? When we prayerfully entrust our decision to God, we have this great comfort. Christ is in the presence of God “on our behalf” (Hebrews 9:24b). God does not make wrong decisions. Prayer: Jesus, thank You for speaking to the Father on my behalf. Amen.

**November 15 – Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost** – Jesus tells us that before the end fathers will deliver their children to death, and “children will rise against parents and have them put to death” (Mark 13:12). He warns, “And you will be hated by all for my name’s



sake” (13:13a). Abortion, euthanasia, loss of religious liberty—be on your guard. But do not lose hope. The one “who endures to the end will be saved” (13:13b). Prayer: Lord, help me endure. Amen.

**November 22 – Last Sunday of the Church Year** – Troubled by various trials? Remember your almighty King! He is “the ruler of kings on earth” (Revelation 1:5b). “[H]is dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away” (Daniel 7:14b). He’s in charge! You don’t have to be! Prayer: King Jesus, help me trust in Your rule of grace in my life. Amen.

**November 29 – First Sunday in Advent** – Troubled by sins? You know, the “big ones” where it feels like regret and guilt never seem to stay away. That’s okay. Our righteousness does not depend upon our feelings but upon a Branch with a wonderful name, “The LORD is our righteousness” (Jeremiah 33:16b). We cling to that righteousness as we prepare our hearts to celebrate His coming. Prayer: Branch of David, calm my troubled heart as I recall Your righteous name splashed upon me in Baptism. Amen.

**December 6 – Second Sunday of Advent** – Think abortion or assisted suicide or destructive embryo research are rights or choices to be defended? Think again. When you defy life, you defy the Author and Redeemer of life. Repent and receive Christ’s forgiveness. Then bear fruit. Speak up for and defend life as a gift from God. Prayer: Father, I repent of my sins against life and for my silence when Your great gift is maligned. Forgive me and help me bear fruit. Amen.

**December 13 – Third Sunday of Advent** – Paul tells us to “Rejoice in the Lord always” (Philippians 4:4a). That’s not always easy when Satan uses the voices of others and even our own to tell us we are worthless. Not so! Trust and hope in these words, “The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing” (Zephaniah 3:17). Prayer: Lord, thank You for rejoicing over me because of Your cleansing blood. Help me rejoice in You. Amen.

**December 20 – Fourth Sunday in Advent** – John leaping in the womb (Luke 1:41). Doesn’t this say he’s alive? John leaping for *joy* in the womb (1:44). Doesn’t this say he’s a human person? John doing these things because he is in the presence of God Almighty in the person of Jesus, a tiny speck in Mary’s womb. Doesn’t this say something about God’s love for life even there? Prayer: Thank You Lord God for Your immeasurable love for life displayed in Your incarnation in a womb. Amen.

**December 27 – First Sunday after Christmas** – In ancient Israel every firstborn male belonged to the Lord and had to be redeemed or bought back with a sacrifice. Now, because of the sacrifice of Christ, God desires all to come to the knowledge of the truth of their redemption. Does this not add great value to those who have yet to open the womb but still reside there? Prayer: Thank You, Jesus, for being the sacrifice to buy us back from the hopelessness of our sin. May all those yet to be born be brought to this saving knowledge. Amen.





# 2015 Lutherans For Life National Conference

**Created** • **Redeemed** • **Called**

October 30-31, 2015  
Petersburg, Kentucky

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

[creationmuseum.org](http://creationmuseum.org)

**Here are the wonderful speakers scheduled to join us in October:**

**Ken Ham** on "The Gospel in Genesis"

**Dr. David Menton** on "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made"

**Col. John Eidsmoe** on "Evolution vs. the Sanctity of Human Life"

**Timothy Goeglein** on "Faith in the Halls of Power"

**Buddy Davis** with a "Creation Concert"

**Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb** on "Created, Redeemed, Called—The Trinitarian Value of Human Life"

**John Hawkins** on "To Leave or Not Leave an Estate Gift – Eight Things to Consider"

**Lori Trinche** on Life Teams

This year's conference will also offer you plenty of time to explore the **Creation Museum!**

**REGISTER NOW!**

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

"But now thus says the Lord, he who created you ... 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine'" (Isaiah 43:1).



**Pre-Conference Events  
Friday, October 30**

**Creation Museum Tour**  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**To Leave or Not Leave an  
Estate Gift – Eight Things to  
Consider with John Hawkins –**

This seminar will focus on how you can testify to your Christian faith and provide for your family and your favorite ministries.  
2:00–3:00 p.m.

**Life Team Seminar with Lori  
Trinche –** This workshop will be a time of encouragement, sharing, and education for the “hands and feet” of LFL!

3:00-4:00 p.m.





Lutherans For Life National Conference • October 30-31, 2015  
Creation Museum • 2800 Bullittsburg Church Road • Petersburg, Kentucky 41080

## SCHEDULE: 2015 LFL National Conference

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Registration at the Cincinnati Airport Marriott

10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. **Creation Museum Tour**

Pre-Conference Workshops:

2:00-3:00 To Leave or Not Leave an Estate Gift – Eight Things to

Consider with John Hawkins

3:00-4:00 Life Team Seminar with Lori Trinche

5:00 Opening Worship Service

6:30 Banquet

7:30-9:00 Keynote Address – Ken Ham – The Gospel in Genesis

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

7:30 a.m. Registration and exhibitor set up at the Creation Museum

8:30 Plenary 1 – Faith in the Halls of Power with Timothy Goeglein

9:30 Break and announcements

9:45 Plenary 2 – Fearfully and Wonderfully Made  
with Dr. David Menton

10:45 Break

11:00 Plenary 3 – Evolution vs. the Sanctity of Human Life  
with Col. John Eidsmoe

12:00 Lunch

12:30-3:00 Creation Museum Tour

3:00 Creation Concert with Buddy Davis

4:00 An Exciting Look at LFL's Future with the outgoing and  
incoming executive directors – (A special guest appearance  
by Dr. Lamb's cousin, Ole, and his wife, Lena, may be a  
possibility! What might they have to say to the new guy?)

Our conference offers great speakers, wonderful workshops, and life-affirming fellowship! We hope to see you in October!

**Created • Redeemed • Called**

October 30-31, 2015 • Creation Museum • Petersburg, Kentucky



### REGISTRATION FEES

Adult registration\* (Early Bird) – \$100  
Adult registration\* (after 9/15/15) – \$125  
Student registration\* - \$50  
Child registration\* (6-12) – \$30  
Child 5 and under\* – no charge  
Saturday only registration\* – \$75  
Friday only registration – \$50 (Creation Museum ticket NOT included)

\*Registration includes a ticket to the Creation Museum. Notes: Children 5 and under are admitted free, but please include them when registering. Financial assistance is available for students.

### MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS!

Cincinnati Airport Marriott  
2395 Progress Drive  
Hebron, Kentucky 41048

800.696.0165 or 859.586.0166

**Conference room rate: \$95.00 (plus tax)**



<https://aws.passkey.com/event/13167836/owner/2374/home>

**Reserve your rooms early!** To obtain the group rate, mention that you will be attending the Lutherans For Life National Conference.

### CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP!

Instead of placing "ads" in a conference book, sponsorship donations will be listed and acknowledged in the conference information folder.

**Sponsorship levels are:**

**Bronze - \$50 • Silver - \$100**

**Gold - \$250 • Platinum - \$500**

Sponsorships may be given in honor or memory of someone or event. Download the sponsorship form from the conference page on the website ([www.lutheransforlife.org/conference](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/conference)).

**Conference Sponsorship!**

Virginia Flo • National Conference Director • [vflo@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:vflo@lutheransforlife.org)

## Lutherans For Life ...

- **Applies God's Word**, both His Law and His Gospel, to all the life issues—abortion, chastity, assisted suicide and euthanasia, and bio-technology.
- **Assists For-Life Christians** in offering the hope and help of the Good News of Jesus Christ to: women with an untimely pregnancy; women, men, and families suffering under the guilt of an abortion; young people with questions and concerns about sexuality; and the elderly and those with disabilities or terminal illnesses.
- **Believes God gives the gift of life to all people**—from the moment of conception until natural death.
- **Needs your support to continue to encourage, educate, and uplift with a Gospel-centered, Word-based message of hope, forgiveness, and new life!**

## Lutherans For Life ...

**Witnesses** to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God.

**Serves** through individuals who volunteer at pregnancy care centers, with hospice, through prayer, and in a wide variety of caring activities.

**Educates and Encourages** through conferences and workshops, printed resources (including our *LifeDate* journal, *Life News*, *Life Quotes*, and *Directions*), Life Sunday materials and Bible studies, curricula (including Teaching For Life®), video, and through [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org).

**Equips** local congregations to speak out on life issues in their communities through chapters and Life Teams. Many Lutherans For Life state federations and chapters also support a variety of compassionate, caring pregnancy and post-abortion ministries that offer pre- and post-natal counseling, parenting skills workshops, and lifestyle counsel.

## Share the Life Message All Through the Year!

Lutherans For Life offers several easy ways to keep the life message before your congregation!

Order **LifeDate** in bulk quantities at no charge. (Donations for shipping cost will gladly be accepted.) Call 888.364.LIFE.

Download **Life News**, our monthly bulletin insert with life-issue news and more!

Sign up for **Life Notes**, our weekly email update.

Share **Life Quotes** and **Life Thoughts in the Church Year** in weekly congregational bulletins (or monthly newsletters).



**Our Mission** ... Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

**Our Vision** ... Every Lutheran congregation upholding the God-given value of human life and influencing society to do the same.

**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.

### National LFL Board of Directors

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LFL has 11 state federations, 102 local chapters, 122 Life Ministry Coordinators, 106 Life Team Leaders, and 99 Life Teams in the US.

**LifeDate**

Lutherans  
For Life

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