



**Nebraska
Lutherans For Life**

Inside this issue:

Pastor Brown's message	Pg 3
Federation News	Pg 4
Life News	Pg 4-5

**Deadline for the
Spring 2016 newsletter is March 15.**

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.

Nebraska LFL Federation Newsletter

Vol. 2 #10

Winter 2015-2016

What is This?

**Looking at Life
in the Womb**

LIFE IN THE WOMB

The LCMS Life Ministry has a FREE ultrasound-based resource that shows students "Life in the Womb." This is for middle-and high-school classrooms and is also ideal for congregational settings such as confirmation and teen groups. Learners will understand that pregnancy, even in its earliest stages, always involves a new human being – a life worth protecting and defending.

The project is comprised of six modules and a video, and classroom activities can cross over into several disciplines, including science, math, language arts and religion. The curriculum meets state and national teaching standards, so it's easy for teachers to use in the classroom. And if you teach in a setting that doesn't allow overtly religious discussions, you can still use this curriculum. Only part 5 discusses life from a theological standpoint. The rest of the curriculum deals only with the science of life. Go to blogs.lcms.org/2015/ultrasound-resource to see an explanation and look for the yellow "order via email" button. For more information or to order, you can also e-mail Tracy Quaethem at LCMS Life and Health Ministries: tracy.quaethem@lcms.org.

Chapters/Presidents

Columbus Area LFL #095

Dr. Kip Anderson 402.564.8999
3683 Regency Place
Columbus, NE 68601-3069

Elkhorn Valley LFL #234

Susie Cohee 402.372.1119
susiecohee@gmail.com
1869 Cottonwood Lane
West Point, NE 68788

Fremont Area LFL #309

Lowell Bloemker, Treas.
lbloemker@neb.rr.com
402.721.8952
1410 W Dakota
Fremont, NE 68025-2000

Lincoln Area LFL #184

Lyn Maaske 402.421.7363
rnmsk@aol.com
4941 Old Creek Rd
Lincoln, NE 68516-5615

Norfolk Area LFL #195

Kathy Karmazin 402.379.1557
kathy.karmazin@gmail.com
605 S 5th St.
Norfolk, NE 68701-5279

Seward Area LFL #041

Carolyn Gilbreath 402.643.9616
clinag@hotmail.com
1327 294th Rd
Seward, NE 68434-7532

Southeast Nebraska LFL #125

Mildred Bartels 402.335.2682
mibartels@hotmail.com
71919 620th Ave
Steinauer, NE 68441-5140

Southwest Nebraska LFL #341

Mary Fortkamp 308.883.0376
maryrdjesusfreak@yahoo.com
PO Box 1199
Imperial, NE 69033-3009

Tilden Area LFL #177

Sharon Grubb 402.368.5925
grubb1@frontier.com
403 S Antelope St.
Tilden, NE 68781-4839

United For Life LFL #185

Tammy Wescott 308.325.2907
931 W 9th St.
Lexington, NE 68850-1517

Pro-Life Group

Bulldogs For the Unborn

Grace Woelmer 972-922-3319
bulldogsfortheunborn@gmail.com
Concordia, Seward, NE

Contact People

Omaha Area

Joyce Gierke 402.697.8215
cjgierke@cox.net
15726 Westchester Circle
Omaha, NE 68118-2037

Kearney Area

Jean James 308.627.7787
jamesfarms@charter.net
6010 5th Ave Place
Kearney, NE 68845

Nebraska Board of Directors

Bob Saeger-President
saeger001@windstream.net
PO Box 183
Waco, NE 68460-0183
402.728.5652

Rosemary Everts-Secretary
jreverts67@windstream.net
PO Box 112
Goehner, NE 68364-0112
402.523.4835

Kirk Goertzen-Treasurer

kirk.goertzen@nm.com
347 D St
Hampton, NE 68843
402.725.3593

Rev. Michael Brown-Spiritual Advisor

pastorbrown@redeemerlincoln.org
Redeemer Lutheran Church
510 S. 33rd Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
402.477.1710

The president of each chapter is a member of the Board of Directors. If the president can't attend the Board meetings, she/he can name a representative.

Donna Anderson (rep. Columbus)
darwina@net.rr.com
3520 35th St
Columbus, NE 68601-1406
402.564.8429

Deanna Blomenberg (member-at-large)
1700 N 43 St
Norfolk, NE 68701-3114
402.371.5221

Peg Fisher (rep. United for Life)
lpfisher03@hotmail.com
75151 Rd 441
Overton, NE 68863-5308
308.987.2206

Ruth Groothuis (rep. Southeast)
willruth@neb.rr.com
PO Box 626
Falls City, NE 68355-0626
402.245.2808

Sally Miller (rep. Lincoln)
4530 Bancroft Ave Apt. 2
Lincoln, NE 68506-4225
402.483.4397

Message from Rev. Michael Brown

A Holistic Approach To Life — Part 1

Jesus: Holistically Pro-Life

It was the late 1970s. This sort of thing wasn't all that common - a woman, in her 40s, pregnant. She did a lot of crying. Granted, she might have been "expecting," but she and her husband weren't expecting *this!* Not at her age. It was unplanned. It was unconventional. It was life changing.

Moreover, there was real cause to have concern – health concerns. With her first child there had been birth complications - terrible ones. So the doctors warned her of the increase risk of "birth defects" that came with an aging mother, though there were no signs of any as of yet. Her Lutheran pastor was also aware of the potential health risks as well. So he went out of his way to reassure her that if she wanted to terminate her pregnancy because of these potential "defects," her Lutheran church would stand with her in her decision. So would God.

Thankfully, I'm glad my mother didn't listen to her pastor. I happen to enjoy my life.

Yet I hope each of us do just that this Advent and Christmas season - listen to our pastors. Listen to them tell the story of something that wasn't all that common 2000 years ago: a woman, probably in her teens, pregnant...but with no husband to speak of. Perhaps she did a lot of crying too. She might have been "expecting," but she and Joseph weren't expecting this! Talk about unplanned! Talk about unconventional! Talk about life changing!

Though, isn't this exactly what we're expecting this Advent and Christmas - a baby who is going to change our lives too. And that's Good News! At least that's what the angel called it when speaking to some shepherds near Bethlehem. It's Gospel—Good News that gets spoken in our ears each week too. Forgiveness, life, and salvation that is placed in our lowly manger, our lips, this season. His life, His death, and His resurrection that we have been baptized into, completely changing life as we know it. Yours and mine. Body and soul. A life we enjoy now, but a fulfillment that is not yet. New life that is nothing less than the holistic redemption of all creation.

It turns out, Jesus is holistically pro-life. And so is His Church!

(Continued on page 5)

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.

MEMORIAL/ THANKOFFERING GIFT NE LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Because I believe life is a precious gift from God, I wish to support the ministry of Lutherans for Life with a gift in thanksgiving for the life of:

Amount of contribution \$ _____

Memorial Gift

Thankoffering Gift

I understand this gift will be given recognition in the upcoming NE Lutherans For Life Newsletter.

Name of contributor: _____

Address: _____

"Whatever you have done unto the least of these, you have done unto Me."

Send to:
Nebraska Lutherans for Life
c/o Kirk Goertzen
347 D Street
Hampton, NE 68843

Nebraska Lutherans For Life Federation News

The Board of Directors of the Nebraska Lutherans For Life Federation met on October 17, 2015, at St. John, Seward.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

We thank Pastor Matthew Tooman for being our Spiritual Advisor and wish him God's blessings on his call to Wahpeton, North Dakota. Pastor Michael Brown of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lincoln has consented to be our new Spiritual Advisor. He is also the District Life Coordinator for the English District.

CHAPTER REPORTS

The Seward Area Chapter shared a booth with the Seward Co. Pro-Life Council at the county fair in August and gave out nine God's Word For Life Bibles in a drawing. Life Chain was observed in Seward on Sunday, October 4.

The Lincoln Chapter observed Life Chain Sunday on October 4.

The Bulldogs For the Unborn at Concordia University is meeting monthly. They have held two very successful ingatherings of items for the Lincoln Pregnancy Center. They joined in with the 40 Days For Life Campaign by praying in front of the Planned Parenthood facility in Lincoln. They had Pat McCarthy from the Lincoln Pregnancy Center speak to them and

also hosted Reagan Nielsen from Students For Life speaking on Apologetics Against Abortion.

CROSS DISPLAY

The display has not been used since April. If you want to use the display in your area, please contact Bob Saeger at saege001@windstream.net or P.O. Box 183, Waco, NE 68460. Also, contact Bob if you would like to make future phone calls for scheduling the display.

NATIONAL LFL CONFERENCE

We paid the registration fees for 12 adults and one student to attend the National LFL Conference in Petersburg, KY.

GOD'S WORD FOR LIFE BIBLES

The Board voted to buy 50 of the God's Word For Life Bibles for a group from Mighty Fortress Lutheran in Seward called "Guardian Angels" who give layettes to pregnancy centers and handmade blankets to the Winnebago Mission and the Lincoln Peoples' City Mission. The group would like to include a Bible with every gift.

The **NEXT MEETING** is Saturday, March 19, 2016 at 10 a.m. at Concordia University in Seward.

OPPORTUNITIES TO STAND UP FOR LIFE

The **Washington, D.C.** March for Life is Friday, January 22, 2016. Divine worship will be held at 9 a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1801 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA. Participants will then ride the Metro to the march. For more information, send an email to tracy.quaethem@lcms.org.



"We can't stop all evil in this fallen world, but we can fight it in our own neck of the woods with love. Love never ends. Love can save lives. Love declares that there is no such thing as an unwanted child."

Dr. Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"A just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law."

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King in "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"
www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-quotes

Christ's Church: Holistically Pro-Life

It was the 2nd & 3rd centuries. This sort of thing was thankfully all too common - the body of Christ gathered around the Apostles' teachings, baptism, and the breaking of bread. It was only in the life found there, in Jesus Christ, that God's people were strengthened and nourished to be able to live in a culture of constant death and persecution.

In their daily lives, this looked like Christians opposing infanticide and abortion, even rescuing children thrown away in the dump or left to die of exposure. It looked like Christians who would stay in their plague-riddled villages and cities to tend the ill and dying while everyone else would flee, often succumbing to the illnesses themselves. And it looked like Christians who would take the bodies of crucified criminals, even pagans, and prepare and bury them instead of letting them be discarded in ditches like road kill. Conception to resurrection, body and soul, the church has always been holistically pro-life.

Now it is the 21st century. This sort of thing thankfully remains all too common - the body of Christ still gathering around the Apostles' teachings, baptism, and the breaking of bread. It is only in the life found there, in Jesus Christ, that we too are strengthened and nourished to be able to live in a culture of increasing death and persecution.

In our daily lives (here in this place at least), this looks like Christians opposing abortion, promoting adoption and foster care, and taking care of mothers faced with hard circumstances. It looks like Christians who have started hospitals for the ill, homes and terrific programs for the developmentally delayed, and outreach and care for those who are blind and deaf - *always valuing the life of those whom society values less*. And it looks like Christians who take care of the dying, operate assisted living and skilled-care facilities, and value and fight for quantity of life just as much as quality of life. Conception to resurrection, body and soul, the church continues to be holistically pro-life.

But is your congregation?

Read Part 2 Your Congregation: Holistically Pro-Life in the spring edition of the Nebraska Lutherans For Life newsletter.



Thank You

- A donation was received from the LWML of St. Peter Lutheran Church, Davenport, NE
- A donation was received from Deloris Stork, Arlington, NE in honor of her grandchildren Brittany, Nathan and Nicole.

SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY

Life Sunday may be observed January 17 or 24 (or any date). Bulletin inserts and other resources are available through Lutherans For Life at www.lutheransforlife.org (1-888-364-5433) or www.cph.org (1-800-325-3040).

A good place to order promotional items like pencils, bookmarks, balloons, etc. is Heritage House in Snowflake, Arizona, at www.hh76.com (1-800-858-3040).

(As the newsletter is late coming out it may be too late to order if you are celebrating Sanctity of Life Sunday in January).

The **Nebraska Walk For Life in Lincoln** will be Saturday, January 30, 2016. Meet at the State Capitol at 10 a.m. Participants will walk down 14th St. to the University of Nebraska Student Union 2nd floor where there will be pro-life tables, hot beverages and baked goods. The keynote speaker, Sue Thayer, will start at 11 a.m. Sue Thayer is a former Storm Lake, Iowa Planned Parenthood Director. Sue worked for Planned Parenthood for nearly 18 years until PP of the Heartland initiated its WebCam Abortion scheme. Sue began to see PP in a new light and ultimately shared her insider knowledge in a whistleblower lawsuit against PP, currently in litigation. She shares her miraculous conversion with honesty, transparency and humor. As founder and director of Cornerstone For Life Pregnancy Resource Center, Sue has truly come full circle. The event will conclude at 1 p.m.

**Immanuel Lutheran
Church
500 S Center Street
Tilden, NE 68781**

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**Editor: Sharon Grubb
Address: 403 S Antelope St
Tilden, NE 68781
Phone: 402.368.5925
E-mail: grubb1@frontier.com**

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Be a Gospel-motivated Voice For Life!

Yes, I will help get out the life-giving message of Lutherans For Life!

Please select one of the following:

(Any amount is welcome! Membership contributions are shared with LFL Chapters and State Federations.)

- My **Annual** membership gift of \$35 \$50 Other \$ _____ is enclosed.
- My monthly **Sponsor** membership gift will be \$ _____.
- I do not wish to become a member, but I am contributing \$ _____ to support LFL.
- I do not wish to contribute at this time, but I would like to be on your mailing list.
(You will receive *LifeDate*, published quarterly.)

Please make checks payable to **Lutherans For Life** (U.S. Currency). All contributions are tax-deductible in accord with IRS regulations. Fill in credit card info on the back of this flap.



Lutherans For Life • 1101 5th Street • Nevada, IA 50201-1816
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Congregation _____

LFL Chapter name/number
(if a local member)

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