



A quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life

The Seasons of Life

Just as the calendar year
has seasons from
spring to winter,
life too has its seasons:

*Conception, Birth,
Growth, Maturity,
Aging, Death*

God's Word and God's grace
are there for us—whatever
the season.

“For everything there is a
season, and a time for every
matter under heaven:
a time to be born,
and a time to die ...”
(Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a)

Inside this edition of LifeDate ...

page 3

From the Executive Director

Delightfully Seasoned

pages 4-5

Abortion/Post Abortion/Alternatives

Middle School Love, Compassion—and
Outrage by Sue Domeier

pages 6-9

End of Life

The Culture of Life Respects the Elderly
by Ryan MacPherson

Different Dreams throughout the Seasons
of Life – Thoughts about the Journey of
Disability by Mona Fuerstenau

pages 10-15

Worldview and Culture

Sufficient Grace for All Seasons
by Lynette Auch

A Man(sion) for All Seasons – Matthew
7:24-29 by Rev. Michael W. Salemink

What Will Happen to Me If I Don't Attend
Church? by Rev. James Albrecht

pages 16-17

Lutherans For Life Resources

pages 18-19

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

page 20

World News

pages 21-30

Spotlight on Lutherans For Life

Jesus Christ, the Never-Changing Light of
the World by Hilary Haak

In Memoriam: Jean Garton

An Island Invitation

Giving "Unusual" Gifts to Ministry
by John Hawkins

2016 Congregational Donor Honor Roll

Like and follow us on ...



Lutherans For Life

Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-
motivated voices For Life.

LifeDate is a free, quarterly publication of
Lutherans For Life (LFL). Please notify us of
address changes. Letters to the editor, articles,
and photos may be sent directly to the editor,
Lowell Highby: lhighby@lutheransforlife.org.

Lutherans For Life

1101 5th Street
Nevada, IA 50201-1816

888.364.LIFE (5433)

515.382.2077

info@lutheransforlife.org

www.lutheransforlife.org

National LFL Life Center Staff

Rev. Michael W. Salemink – Executive
Director

Rev. Scott Licht – National Director

John Hawkins - Director of Development

Lowell J. Highby – Director of
Communications

Hilary Haak – Mission and Ministry Director

Laura Davis – Director of Y4Life

Jerilyn Richard – Data Analyst

Kim Nessa – Accountant

Debra Freese – Office Clerk

Katie Friedrich – Office Assistant

Virginia Flo – Regional Director of Minnesota
& National Conference Director

Barb Geistfeld – Regional Director of Texas

Lutherans For Life is a Recognized Service
Organization of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.
LFL is not subsidized by the LCMS or any other church
body. It is supported entirely by individual donations
and grants.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations
are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®,
copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing
ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permis-
sion. All rights reserved.

GOD'S WORD Scripture quotations are taken from
GOD'S WORD®, © 1995 God's Word to the Nations.
Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group.

Scripture marked NIV is taken from THE HOLY BIBLE,
NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright ©
1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by
permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Delightfully Seasoned

by Rev. Michael W. Salemink

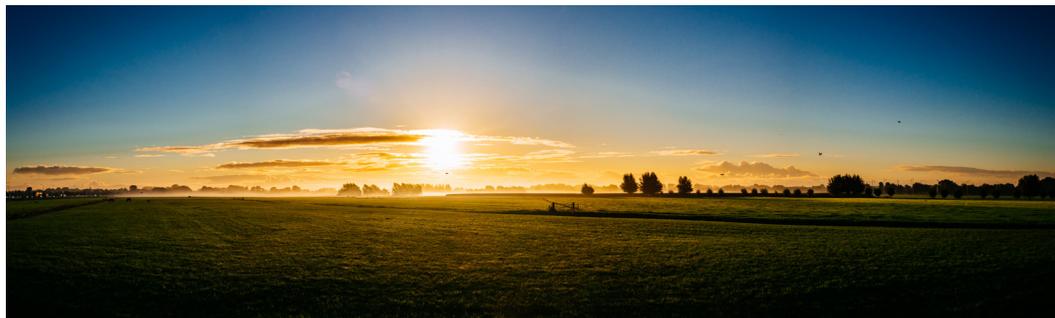
“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven ... [God] has made everything beautiful in its time.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11)

Every season has its beauties. Spring reveals lush beds of emerald blossoms to cheer the heart. Summer sports its vibrant gold and sapphire canopies that invigorate the bones. Autumn soothes the mind with crimson and ginger rainbows. Even winter’s shrouds of stark silvers and poignant chocolates stir the soul. Of course, each season also has its burdens. January brings cold and darkness. October gets blustery and shriveled. July grows hot and violent—and April proves wet and messy.

Human beings undergo different seasons. Our lives experience changing times. Some become burdensome. Actually, all of life’s seasons become burdensome: gestation and infancy, childhood and adolescence, training and service, marriage and parenthood, retirement and aging. None comes or goes without denting and bending all of us, whether privilege or poverty, ability or ailment, influence or isolation. Youth or maturity, confidence or confusion, comeliness or homeliness—all operate as instruments of Satan and arenas for pain. The problem’s not the environment but the inhabitant. We take sin with us everywhere we go, and it touches everything anyone does.

In spite of our failures, Jesus incarnates all human life’s seasons. In fact, because of our fallen state, He sanctifies every one of our states and stages: Embryo and baby, toddler and teenager, adult and dying. He was born and grew. He walked and wept. He slept and ate and sweat. He felt and hurt and bled. He took up our sorrows and carried our sicknesses (Matthew 8:17). He involves God’s love and power in our sufferings (Hebrews 2:17-18). He incorporates God’s forgiveness and salvation into our shortcomings. He is crucified to release every human heart. He is resurrected to restore all human bodies. No circumstances that befall us lie beyond His grasp. No situations we bring about land us outside His grace (Romans 8:38-39). Some even turn out beautiful; indeed, in His time, at His command, and according to His good and gracious will, they all do, and we all will!

“For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.” (1 Timothy 4:4-5)



Middle School Love, Compassion—and Outrage

by Sue Domeier

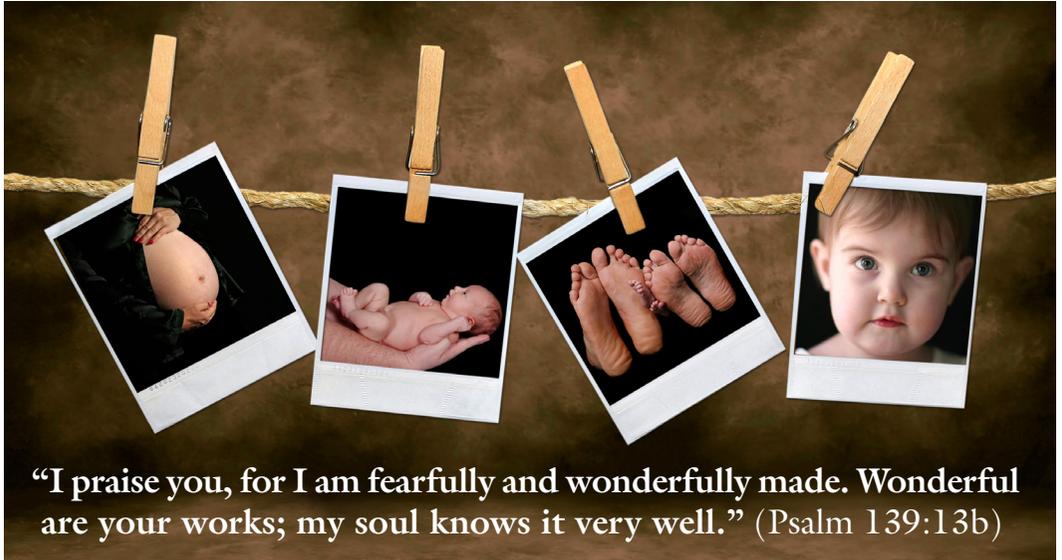
It was a typical Friday morning at Immanuel Lutheran School in East Dundee, Illinois. It was January, snowy, and cold—a normal day in the life of the school. Basketball season was in full swing, and the kids were wearing their Eagle team attire as it was tournament time. As principal, it was my responsibility to teach seventh grade confirmation on Friday mornings because it was the pastor’s day off.

The topic was sanctity of life. As a former science teacher, I love connecting science and God’s Word. I think I was the only person looking forward to the lesson that day—but that soon changed as I pulled out the fetal models—the babies.

Middle schoolers are fascinated by babies. Sometimes they are actively fascinated. Other times they try to be cool. Once the babies came out of the box, active fascination became the norm. As we talked about human development in the womb, we looked at organ development and the size of the developing baby. Soon each baby was in the hands of the kids—and they didn’t let go. Sometimes I think I could have been reciting the alphabet for all the attention I appeared to be receiving during the lesson, but truly they were listening—hanging on every word while passing the babies around and tenderly holding them. Some even reminded their classmates to “watch his head.” It was a wondrous thing to witness.

We talked about how much each student weighed at birth, how big they were, and what they looked like. Each student had a story to share. It was turning out to be a good lesson.

Whenever I introduced the topic of abortion, typically our kids are shocked and angry that any parent could think about such a thing. They are usually filled with outrage. This year we had a set of quadruplets in the class—three girls and a boy. The quads had shared their birth weights, and we compared their birth weights to the models, and we marveled at God’s goodness and the miracle of life.



“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.” (Psalm 139:13b)

Then it all changed in an instant. The boy of the quads raised his hand and said quietly that when his mom was carrying them, the doctors wanted to do selective reduction on them—and he was the baby targeted for this procedure. Noah is the biggest of the quads. He’s now a big and strong middle-school boy—popular and a good athlete. The outrage that followed his announcement raised the roof! These kids were angry! How could our Noah not be here? What was the doctor thinking? Middle-school outrage is something to behold. There is something grand about watching middle schoolers ramp up into a roll. The idea that one of their own might not have been there was an outrage to their moral code, and the outbursts that followed were intriguing: “Why would God allow this to happen?” “Why doesn’t God just stop this?” “Why do people have abortions?” “Don’t they understand?” So many questions to which we don’t always have answers.

What was clear that day was that God was active, alive, and working in the lives of these children. They went back to Scripture. They read David’s psalm (139) reminding us that we were known and knit before we were born. They reminded themselves and one another of God’s perfect plan for each of them. Jeremiah’s words reminding them of God’s plan for their lives gave them comfort—but didn’t calm their outrage.

As we talked, prayed, and contemplated, we were reminded of the words of Ezekiel and the “time” passage—a time to live. What does that mean for God’s people in today’s world? We don’t always have the answer to that question, but we do know that the youth learning in our Lutheran schools are both the present and the future. On that day, our future was secure. Our children stood For Life—especially the life present in the womb. Our future was also secure in that our God promises us the security of heaven. The children knew that and claimed that promise. These young people will be our leaders, workers, moms, and dads in the years to come.

This day they stood strong for God’s plan For Life—their own and that of life in the womb.

What a wondrous future it will be!

Owen’s Mission

Over 41,000 students have now heard about Owen’s Mission!

Horton the elephant was right! The Bible agrees! In fact, the Bible says more: A person’s a person created by God (Psalm 139:13-14), a person redeemed by Jesus (Galatians 3:13), and a person the Holy Spirit wants to call to be His child (1 Timothy 2:4)—no matter how small!

The goal of **Owen’s Mission** is to honor Jesus by presenting a set of Touch of Life fetal models to every Lutheran elementary and high school in the country. (That’s 1,078 schools affecting 139,000 students!) We want students to understand the God-given value of each life from the moment of conception. We want students to be motivated by what God has done as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier that gives value to life. We want students to value themselves and to value others as persons because of this God-given value. www.lutheransforlife.org/about/owens-mission



The Culture of Life Respects the Elderly

By Ryan MacPherson

The honor that children owe to their parents does not end when children become adults or when parents become grandparents. Nor does this honor consist of mere lip service. As Luther explains in the *Large Catechism*:

We show them such honor also by works, that is, with our body and possessions, that we serve them, help them, and provide for them when they are old, sick, infirm, or poor, and all that not only gladly, but with humility and reverence, as doing it before God. For [the person] who knows how to regard them in his heart will not allow them to suffer want or hunger, but will place them above him[self] and at his side, and will share with them whatever he has and possesses. (LC I, 111)

In the culture of life, one's first reaction is not to put Grandma in a nursing home, but to open one's own home—to meet her needs, to share her burdens, and to celebrate the blessings God places in her life (cf. 2 Samuel 9). The “majesty there hidden” does not fade with age; rather, as the proverb teaches us, “**The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, If it is found in the way of righteousness**” (Proverbs 16:31 NKJV). True, “[t]he glory of young men is their strength,” but the Scriptures also teach that “**the splendor of old men is their gray head**” (Proverbs 20:29 NKJV).

Let us not think lightly of the fact that Jacob blessed his children and his children's children when he was well advanced in years (Genesis 49). Young King Rehoboam, on the other hand, foolishly neglected the sage advice of his elders in favor of the youthful generation's short-sighted plans (1 Kings 12:6–15).

The culture of life respects human life at all its stages, recognizing that those who have lived long and well have much to offer those who are just beginning their journeys on this earth. Not only should the young respect the aging, but the elderly should also respect themselves with the honor God says is due them. If Grandpa is too weak to work, he is not too weak to pray. Let us cherish our parents and grandparents as they intercede on our behalf and pass down to their children's children the wisdom of the Lord.

In the face of grave illness, the culture of life acknowledges that God alone determines the length of our days. He granted King Hezekiah 15 additional years (Isaiah 38:5). “**My times,**” wrote the psalmist, “**are in your hand**” (Psalm 31:15a). Christ healed the sick, raised the dead, and proclaimed a living Gospel for this world and the next. Thus we pray, “**Deliver us from evil,**” which Luther expounds as follows:

We pray in this petition ... that our Father in heaven would deliver us from every evil of body and soul ... and at last, when the hour of death shall come, grant us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven. (SC, Seventh Petition)

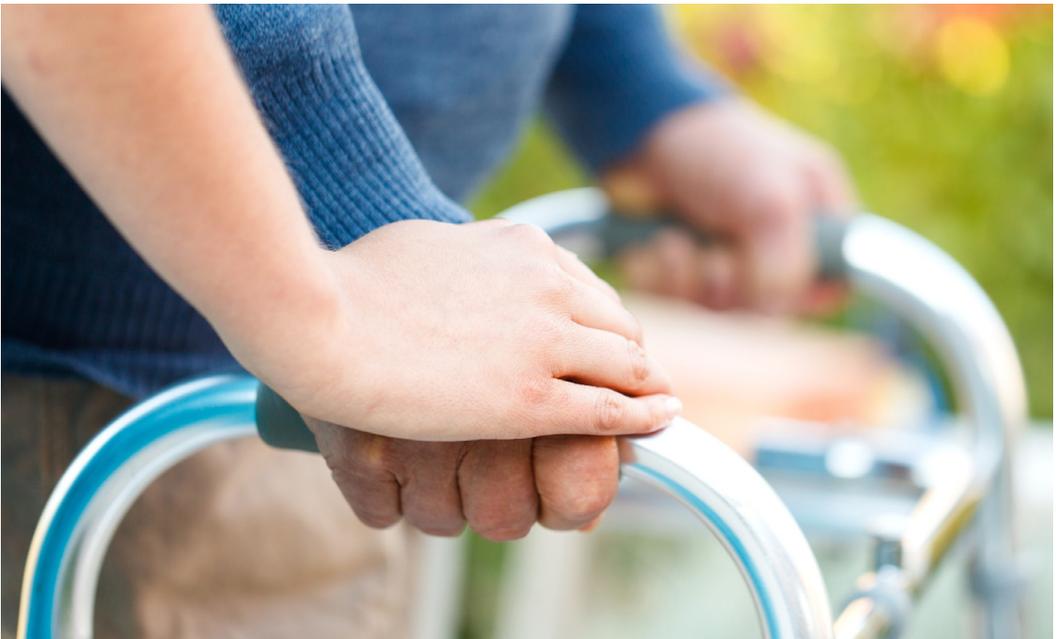
To protect our lives until the day that God chooses to be our last, the LORD has given the Fifth Commandment: “You shall not kill.” The culture of life recognizes that “mercy killing,” despite its friendly name, is *murder*; genuine mercy comforts the soul with Word and Sacrament and cares for the body as best one can. But to kill is to take away what God has given, to injure what God seeks to protect, to cut short what God has measured more abundantly than we can ask or imagine (cf. Ephesians 3:20).

When, however, God has made clear that someone’s death is imminent, then the culture of life teaches an acceptance of His will. The culture of life does not seek to preserve a life that no longer can be preserved but rather to respect both God’s gift of life and God’s timing for death. Life is ours to protect and cherish, but it is God’s to prolong and God’s to end (Deuteronomy 32:39 and Psalm 31:15).

Amid difficult situations, the culture of life remembers that neither the avoidance of suffering for one’s self nor the avoidance of watching a loved one suffer should be the highest priority. Instead, the culture of life discovers comfort in the face of tragedy by recalling the redemptive purpose of Christ’s suffering (Hebrews 13:12). Suffering is real. Suffering is difficult. Even so, **“the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”** (Romans 8:18 NKJV).

In the culture of life, therefore, we “fear and love God, so that we do no bodily harm to our neighbor, but help and befriend him in every need” (SC, Fifth Commandment). This we do for the sick as much as for the healthy, for the weak as much as for the strong, for the old as much as for the young. *The culture of life respects the elderly.*

Excerpted from The Culture of Life: Ten Essential Principles for Christian Bioethics, which is available at bulk discount rates for use in Bible studies: www.hausvater.org/books. 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).



Different Dreams throughout the Seasons of Life – Thoughts about the Journey of Disability

by Mona Fuerstenau, director of Lutheran Ministry Partnerships, Bethesda Lutheran Communities

As a passionate advocate for those with disabilities, one who daily parents a young adult with a disability and works with individuals and families living with disabilities, I often hear emotional comments from the heartbroken to the callous. Parents just receiving a diagnosis of their child's disability are filled with emotions from fear to confusion to anger. Spouses just receiving the diagnosis of degenerative or terminal illness, or guarded prognosis of recovery from catastrophic events such as stroke or accident, experience similar emotions.

Fear of what disability will look like and be like, confusion about mixed feelings and messages from family and health professionals, and anger at having dreams so drastically challenged and decisions that need to be made are some of what people struggle with.

The truth is we all have dreams of what our lives will look like. Those dreams begin when we are young and include future careers, places to live, perhaps a spouse and a family. Dreams are important. They guide and encourage us. And as people of God we rest in His words in Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV):

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Our dreams evolve over time. We grow, we learn, we change, we adapt, we reset. But dreams don't typically include the above scenarios. And when those events occur, a dream dies. And the death of a dream is very real and very painful. Just like a physical death, there is a time of grief and mourning—and that time is very much needed.

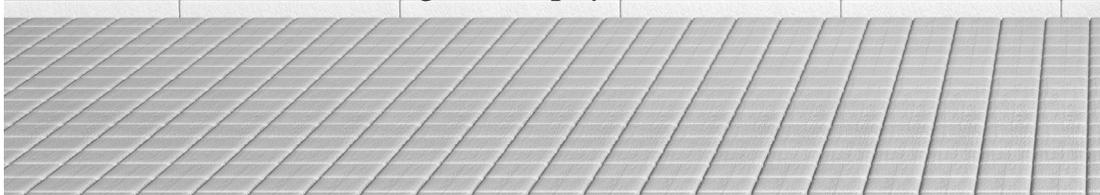
But the death of a dream does not mean physical death is the answer. God's Word is the answer.

Our throw-away culture values ability and perfection. Those values increasingly and unfairly characterize the preborn diagnosed with disability as not even worthy to be born. But God's Word is clear in King David's Psalm 139:13-13 (NIV):

“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.”

When people ask why this has happened, I read them God's Word in the story of the man born blind in John 9:3 (NIV):

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”



When people question the value of a life lived with disability, I share God's Word concerning the body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12:22 (NIV):

“On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable.”

Note it does *not* say those that *are* weaker, but those that *seem to be weaker* are indispensable! And 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV):

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.”

It says *each* one, not just those without disability. When people consider euthanasia for those experiencing illness or decline with aging, God's Word is clear again through King David in Psalm 139:16b (NIV):

“[A]ll the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

People may say all kinds of things like, “God won't give you more than you can handle” or “God helps those who help themselves” or “God gives us intellect to make hard decisions.” But those are not God's words. What is needed is to hear the truths in God's Word—to hear that God's got this! God's got you all! Rest in Him, and He will walk with you through the tears, the fears, the confusion, and the anger to bring peace and joy in the journey!

My hope and prayer and encouragement to each of you is to see people of all abilities as God sees them. Each of His children is beloved and valued. Each is uniquely gifted so that the work of God may be displayed—through every season of life.



Sufficient Grace for All Seasons

by Lynette Auch, president of Lutherans For Life

For the most part, I like the changing of the seasons. In springtime the whole earth buzzes with hope and promise as new plant and animal life explodes! Summertime brings the maturing of this young plant and animal life in the warmth of the sun and nourishing rains. Refreshing cool breezes, full baskets of colorful harvested produce, and preparation for the cold winds of winter come with autumn. Even the barrenness of winter and glistening of snow add a special realm of beauty to the world.

Human life, too, has its seasons.

As an obstetric nurse, much of my work revolves around those in the spring or summer of their lives. Most of the time, my work is happy as new life springs forth into the loving arms of a welcoming mother and father. But, sometimes, a very young life is mysteriously taken, and we ask why.

Some of my work revolved around a woman and family in the season of autumn. A diagnosis of cancer had brought them to the hospital. Cancer is everywhere in her body. She still has children to care for, a husband to grow old with, dreams to fulfill, and she screams, “I am not ready to die!” But her body is slowly succumbing to the inevitable. Why?

I heard one in the winter of life asking, “I am old, a burden and ready to die; why does the Lord take someone so young, with so much life yet to live, and leave me?”

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die ...” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a).

Genesis tells us that in the beginning, everything God made was “good.” Dr. David Menton, former professor at Washington University School of Medicine, teaches and believes that our bodies were really designed to live forever. But then came the fall of man, bringing sin, disease, struggle, and death. Because of God’s great love for us, He could not leave us in the broken, fallen state that we were in. That is why He sent His Son to become sin for us and to give us life eternal.

Several years ago, South Dakota endured one of the worst droughts that I can remember. The hot, dry summer winds scorched everything. The crops were a total disaster. There were prairie fires and much vegetation perished. Such was the case for our little acreage. Many trees died—even the hardy lilac bushes struggled. As the following year approached, many people cautiously made garden and farming plans, wondering if the drought would continue. But to our thankful relief, the spring rains came and replenished the earth. We anxiously waited and watched to see what vegetation survived. One little lilac bush that I thought was surely dead sprang forth with a few tiny flowers and leaves. I was amazed and was beautifully reminded of Dr. Menton’s lecture. God really did design His creations to live forever! Every part of creation wants to live! We, the crown of His creation, want to live forever. And those whom God has created, redeemed, and called *will* live forever!

We may never have the answer to the “why” questions of this life. But we do have the reassurance in God’s Word and His Holy Spirit to comfort us through all the seasons of this life.

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness”
(2 Corinthians 12:9a NIV).

“For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

*Amazing grace how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.*

*Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail,
In heaven's joy and peace.*

(Text: John Newton, 1725-1807; Public domain)



**Since Roe v. Wade in 1973:
58,586,256 abortions in America**

Source: www.lifenews.com/2016/01/14/58586256-abortions-in-america-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973

A Man(sion) for All Seasons – Matthew 7:24-29

by Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life

Rain is gonna getcha regardless. Foolish man built his house on sand. Rain fell, floods came, winds blew. The wise man built his house on rock. Rain fell, floods came, winds blew. Conclusion: expect weather anyway. You can't avoid it. Forecast: clouds, cold and soggy; fronts, dark and heavy; storms, stinging and blinding.

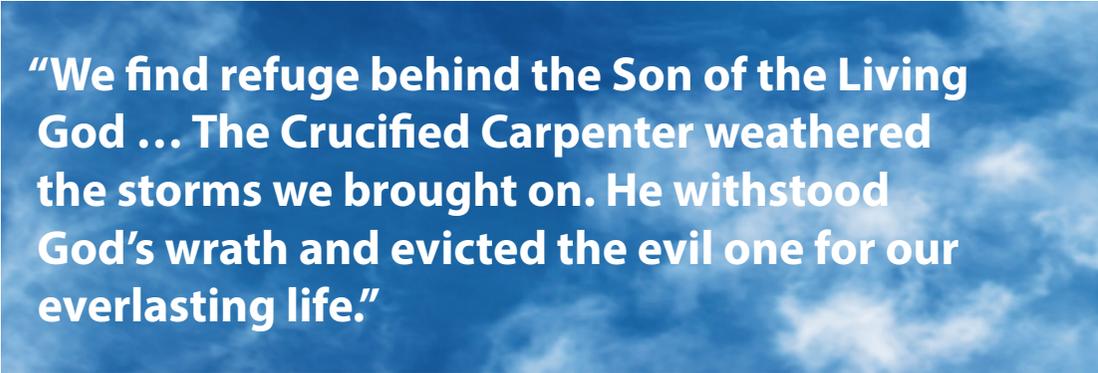
These kinds don't just mess up hair and houses. *These ones* mess up hearts and hopes. "In this world you will have tribulation." "We are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered," "always being given over to death for Jesus' sake." We suffer being ridiculed and excluded. We get labeled and discriminated. Neighbors slander and once-trusted associates sabotage because we speak truth. Enemies harass us and allies humiliate because we share good.

Even Jesus couldn't elude it. Incarnate God also went through it. He came unto His own, and they received Him not. The thirteen apostles, also all martyred. Hundreds of others under synagogues and Sanhedrins. Further thousands at the hands of Caesars and sultans. Millions more by heathens and hedonists. No matter how much you try or have, you can't escape the weather. Rain's gonna getcha.

But don't settle into a persecution complex just yet. Hold up before playing the victim. What will we build while we're still tearing down? The floods and gusts begin within, don't they. You and I *are* the danger. Even if we're passionately life-affirming, enthusiastically scriptural, and intensely Christian, we do not do the good we want, if we want it at all. No, the evil we don't want, or which we sometimes do desire, this we practice.

We give in to instincts for complaining and name-calling. We imagine ourselves superior to that tax collector or that prostitute. We malign the misguided compassion of our counterparts while manifesting none of our own. We self-righteously beat others with Bibles, but only the sections that suit us. We repeat provocative rhetoric and sarcasm. We pelt them with pieces of their own crumbling structures instead of hearing their deep-down pleas.

Are we defending lives by destroying lives? Does our God only differ from theirs in size? Robbing children to pay their father only infuriates both. How can we talk like every life matters when we treat so many otherwise? Stones thrown even at enemies



"We find refuge behind the Son of the Living God ... The Crucified Carpenter weathered the storms we brought on. He withstood God's wrath and evicted the evil one for our everlasting life."

only come from walls sheltering oneself. Law cannot spare anyone, either by placating God or implicating another.

Good thing we don't have to shelter ourselves. The Good Lord sweeps aside all self-made sanctuaries. Before rubble buries us, He situates us instead inside His own impregnable castle. We find refuge behind the Son of the Living God. Heavenly Word has become human substance. This stricken rock streams forth a water that cleanses and quenches. This rolled-back boulder reveals convictions overturned and an arms-outstretching Father. The Crucified Carpenter weathered the storms we brought on. He withstood God's wrath and evicted the evil one for our everlasting life.

From sin's judgment flood, He's emerged alive again. Now He builds dwelling places from the beams He bore. He encompasses failures within walls of compassion. He encircles sinners with stacked-up stories of unconditional acceptance. He encloses *rejects* and *runts* in halls of beloved forgiveness. He cradles *bothers* and *freaks* in closets of joy and cabinets of hope.

His household about you stands against even the worst ambushes and offensives Satan and sinful flesh send after you. Believe it yourself with a blessed abandon. Cling to Him as your own and claim yourself His. Derive your security from His baptismal fatherliness. Obtain your solace in His eucharistic closeness. The Lord Jesus is a man(sion) for all seasons.

So what will you do with the extra? The wise man's house has not fallen. Rains and winds may come, but gates of hell shall not prevail. Awfully, however, falls the foolish one's house. Fools just like us writhe in the wreckage of makeshift shacks. And here we stand with roofs and rooms to spare. What will come of buffoonish hearts whose homes were blown down?

What of the deceived and the desperate? What about those abandoned or ashamed? How will the unborn and the elderly end up? Are they not also fashioned, forgiven, longed for, and sought after by Father, Son, and Spirit? We can take part in their rescue. We get to speak truth and trust it changes hearts. We must show love and know it saves lives. We will ensure the same respect and protection for them as we enjoy.

We will listen the way Jesus receives. We will accompany them as He abides beside us. We will brave the hurt and befriend the injured like He finds us and binds us up. We will treat them as special to heaven's whole household until we behold what He foresees: His estate filled to all degrees and festive unto unending days. Amen.



What Will Happen to Me If I Don't Attend Church?

by Rev. James Albrecht

Short answer: nothing. No lightning bolt will fall from the sky warning you about spiritual danger. No one will return from the dead to plead with you about using your time of grace wisely. Nothing visibly upsetting may happen at all. In time, your conscience problems will go away, as well. Soon, there will be enough of a callus that you won't feel a thing.

Jesus shared the account of the rich man and Lazarus in order to bring focus to this very issue. The man who “fared sumptuously every day” failed to realize that while he felt alive and well-satisfied, he was severely malnourished and dead. His soul and conscience had flat-lined, evidenced by an obvious lack of concern for his neighbor in need. Nothing happened to him, of course—until he died. Then oh how he wished that God would send Abraham back from the dead to warn his brothers! “Nothing doing,” to paraphrase the response. **“They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them”** (Luke 16:29).

The apostle Paul testified before Felix and Drusilla at Caesarea. They had front-row seats in an opportunity of a lifetime but brushed aside the invitation and call to repentance. **“Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you”** (Acts 24:25). As far as we know, nothing happened: no further discussion, no repentance, and no faith. Nothing.

As they passed through Samaria, James and John earned their nickname, “Sons of Thunder,” for wanting to call down fire from heaven. The target was a village of Sa-



maritans who did not care to welcome Jesus to their town. “If that’s how they feel,” the two surmised, “then allow us to give them the judgment they deserve.” But no fire flashed from the sky. No plague ravaged that community. Instead, nothing happened at all. Jesus simply bypassed the town. No miracles were performed. No Gospel was preached. No sinners were saved (Luke 9:54-56).

Where nothing happens, there is no spiritual growth. Where there is no spiritual growth, there is spiritual atrophy. Some will remember the days when having a baby landed the mother in the hospital for two weeks. Total bedrest seemed like the best treatment after the rigors of labor. Today we know that it was the worst thing to do. When the new mom finally got out of the hospital, she was so weakened by the days of doing nothing that she could barely handle the duties of motherhood.

Faith grows through the Gospel. Where Christ is preached, hearers are blessed and made stronger. It works that way, not because the preacher is so dynamic or the music so uplifting, but because God operates through His Word and Sacraments. These are the tools He supplies for our spiritual good. If you knew that Jesus would be in your church on Sunday to bless your children, to put His hand on your shoulder, to personally assure you of His forgiveness and love, would you be there? He is there, and He does that through the Gospel.

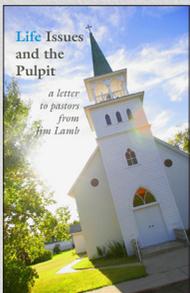
What if you can’t make it on a Sunday? What if your ox falls in a pit and you need to get it out? (Luke 14:5). Then get it out. But, as the old joke goes, “If it falls in the pit every Sunday, you’d better either fill in the pit or get a new ox.”

If you can’t come to church, ask your pastor about ways the church might come to you: video recordings, printed sermons, online services, and so forth—but do it before nothing happens.

Rev. James Albrecht is pastor of St. John’s Ev. Lutheran Church in Okabena, Minnesota. From The Lutheran Spokesman, July 2015. Used by permission.

Life Issues and the Pulpit

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb



Author James Lamb, in this letter to fellow pastors, writes, “The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the most powerful and positive For Life message in the universe! Addressing the life issues is

the responsibility of the Church and her pastors for they are spiritual and theological issues. The Church and her pastors have what it takes—the Gospel!”
 Item LFL1629B. **\$1.00 ea.**

Life Issues and the Pew

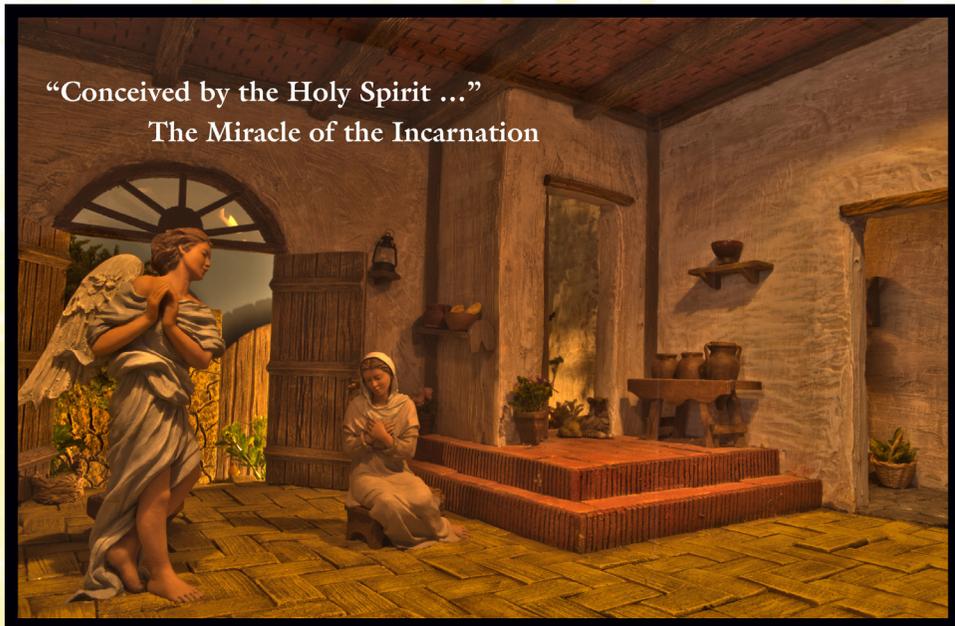
by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb



Author James Lamb writes, “One year ... a pastor spoke up. ‘Hey! Here’s a shepherd! Where are the sheep!’ He was expressing his frustration with people in the pew not supporting him when he did address life issues from the pulpit. So,

as a sequel to *Life Issues and the Pulpit*, I offer *Life Issues and the Pew*.”
 Item LFL1635T. **\$0.50 ea.**
 (Quantity discounts available)

“Conceived by the Holy Spirit ...”
The Miracle of the Incarnation



Bulletin Insert – “The Miracle of the Incarnation”

\$0.10 ea. *Item LFL1106BI*

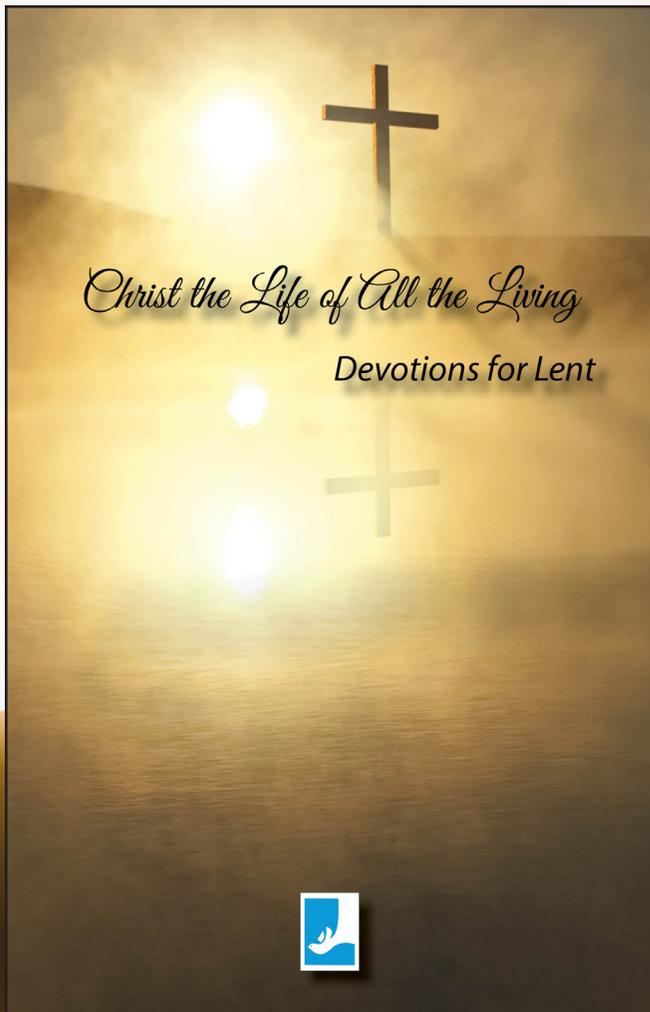
This bulletin insert, focused on the Annunciation observed on March 25, covers the miracle, purpose, and implications of the Incarnation. “Jesus passing through all the stages of human development gives value to all human life in all stages of that development. Jesus being ‘conceived by the Holy Spirit’ enables us to joyfully proclaim and defend the precious worth of all human life from the moment of conception.”

You can find more resources to observe the Annunciation—including a sermon (“Pregnant with God”) and worship service—at:

www.lutheransforlife.org/article/the-annunciation-of-our-lord-march-25



Order LFL Resources at www.cph.org or 800.325.3040. Shipping/handling applies to all orders. Quantity pricing on select resources.



A new devotional booklet From Lutherans For Life for Lent ...

“As we approach Good Friday, the 40 days of Lent are a time of self-discipline. These devotions aim to help us discipline our minds so that when we see the struggles in our own lives, we see the life of Christ working all to good; so that when we see our neighbor, no matter his skin color or gender or level of development, we see the life of Christ, Savior of the nations; so that when we see the boasting of death, we see the life of Christ, triumphant in resurrection.” Contributors include Rev. Michael Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life. *Item LFL1637. \$1.99 ea.*

Be sure to like/follow LFL on social media! See links below:

- www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife
- <https://twitter.com/ForLifers>
- www.instagram.com/lfly4life



Also see:

- www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife
- <https://vimeo.com/user4132928>



Order LFL Resources at www.cph.org or 800.325.3040. Shipping/handling applies to all orders. Quantity pricing on select resources.

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

Based on appointed readings from *Lutheran Service Book*.

You can find Life Thoughts based on the historic One-Year Lectionary at:

www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-thoughts-in-the-church.

April 2 – Fifth Sunday in Lent – How precious has the Lord made each human body! He designates them as residences for His own Spirit. He purposes each one to participate in His everlasting life through His Son’s resurrection (Romans 8:11). We have the privilege of reflecting His blessing by respecting our body and protecting our neighbor’s body. *Almighty Maker, bring about in us Your value and reverence for life in the body. Amen.*

April 9 – Palm Sunday – In affirming life, we aim not to establish superiority but to deliver salvation. Jesus’ servant Gospel forgives us, and redeeming others requires nothing different. We approach both defensive and desperate hearts with this same graceful humility and grateful compassion which He has given us (Philippians 2:6-8). *Dear Savior, renew my heart, mind, and conduct with Your unconditional love. Amen.*

April 16 – Easter Sunday – God shows no partiality (Acts 10:34). He does not discriminate by age, appearance, or ability. He became incarnate and endured crucifixion as one of humankind’s least. Jesus the Risen One extends heaven’s favoritism and victory into every human situation. *Lord of life, bring Your Easter to completion in us. Amen.*

April 23 – Second Sunday of Easter – Especially facing adversity, we have no firmer hope than following the Heavenly Father. Going through trials with Him beside us beats getting around trouble apart from Him. We must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29), however sensible men’s suggestions seem. *Heavenly Father, strengthen our stand upon Your Word. Amen.*

April 30 – Third Sunday of Easter – The Son of God’s lifeblood has ransomed the whole human race from death’s futile ways (1 Peter 1:18-19). The promise and privileges of inheriting and inhabiting His kingdom are for all, including children (Acts 2:39) and those occupying life’s edges. *Lamb of God, allow us to accompany You in gathering Your household together. Amen.*

May 7 – Fourth Sunday of Easter – Christ in the flesh ensures no sheep goes forth alone, not even the strays or stragglers (John 10:4). His Gospel gives company and community along with forgiveness and salvation (Acts 2:42-45). Having Father and family nearby can stave off sin and death. *Good Shepherd, let us bring care by being it. Amen.*

May 14 – Fifth Sunday of Easter (Mothers Day) – Motherly love, like Jesus’ other



miraculous works, shows the heart of the Lord God (John 14:7-11). Such bonds stay devoted despite the beloved's shortcomings. This real love holds little ones precious and holy even when rejected by all others (1 Peter 2:4, 9). *Loving God, establish Your fierce affection in all our interactions. Amen.*

May 21 – Sixth Sunday of Easter – Paul reasoned with his deceived neighbors rather than ridiculing them (Acts 17:17, 22ff.). They must have frustrated him, but he believed them just as much coveted creatures of God as himself. May our speaking truth give voice to Gospel hope, show divine gentleness, and share respect received from Jesus (1 Peter 3:15). *Lord Jesus, fill our words with Your own. Amen.*

May 28 – Seventh Sunday of Easter – Destroying life or belittling dignity belongs to the devil's work (1 Peter 5:8). These methods inevitably end tragically for all involved (Acts 1:16-19). Christ's comfort invites sufferers instead to entrust their anxieties—and those who cause them—to a faithful Creator (1 Peter 5:7). *Holy Father, place our souls in Your hands that we may place Your hands on souls. Amen.*

June 4 – Pentecost Sunday – God's own Spirit empowers our witness. As the Lord and Giver of life, He transforms our awkwardest efforts (Numbers 11:24-30) into making God's mighty works understood (Acts 2:5-11). We may boldly proclaim and gladly perform the Christian Gospel, knowing it saves even skeptics (Acts 2:21). *O Lord, lend Your Spirit to my lips and living. Amen.*

June 11 – Trinity Sunday – Every offspring of Adam and Eve bears God's own image (Genesis 1:26-28). Jesus' coming confirms it with authority and trinitarian majority (Matthew 28:18). This entitles every member of the species to all earth's possessions and heaven's blessings. And we get to be ambassadors of the good news (Acts 2:32)! *Father, Son, and Spirit, include us in Your dead-raising disciple-making. Amen.*

June 18 – Second Sunday after Pentecost (Fathers Day) – Godly fatherhood treats dependents as delights and not burdens. True fatherliness rejoices to defend and provide for them, no matter how incapable or unresponsive they become (Romans 5:6-10). Nothing a person has done or can't do undermines how ceaselessly special God's made us all. *Dear Father, hold us and help us reach out with Your arms. Amen.*

June 25 – Third Sunday after Pentecost – Voices for life won't avoid hardship and resistance (Matthew 10:21-25). But how can we keep silent or still (Jeremiah 20:9) when He who upholds even the sparrows escorts us like a dread warrior (Jeremiah 20:9-11)? And so He dotes on each human being down to their every hair! *Life-giving God, make our bones overflow with your joy. Amen.*



In January, members of the Dutch opposition party asked Minister of Health Edith Schippers if she planned to take any measures to prevent the near elimination of babies with Down syndrome which has happened in other countries. The Netherlands is making NIPT (Non Invasive Prenatal Testing), by which a range of chromosomal and genetic variations can be detected by a blood test, available to all pregnant women in 2017. The introduction of the test has led to 100% of babies diagnosed with Down syndrome being aborted in Iceland. In Denmark, the number is 98%. However, Mrs Schippers, who has also championed euthanasia for those who feel they have “completed life,” replied, “If freedom of choice results in a situation that nearly no children with Down syndrome are being born, society should accept that.” She said withholding information from parents about the health of their future children is “undesirable,” and that participation in the national population screening program is an individual decision. (*SPUC, 1/10/17*)

CTV news has reported that 744 adults have been killed by euthanasia in the six months since it was legalized across Canada. The news channel surveyed provincial and territorial health ministries to gather the most comprehensive picture of “assisted dying” in Canada to date. The numbers show that, on average, four Canadians per day had medically assisted deaths between June 17 and December 16, 2016. In Ontario, there are now approximately 13 people killed by euthanasia every week. (*SPUC, 12/30*)

A citizen’s initiative to raise the issue of euthanasia in the Finnish Parliament (Eduskunta) has passed the requisite 50,000 signatures to trigger a parliamentary debate. As in many countries, Finland has been toying with the issue of euthanasia for years. National public support for euthanasia in the country is currently over the two-thirds mark. In addition, support of the practice among the nation’s doctors has been steadily increasing over the years—although a 2014 medical ethics study shows no significant change in attitudes of Finnish physicians’ willingness to practice euthanasia if it becomes legal. The presented model as addressed in the initiative allows euthanasia for people experiencing an “incurable fatal disease, and death takes place in the near future.” The registered number of signatures now exceeds 62,000. (*BioEdge.org, 1/9/17; CLR LifeWire, 1/12/17*)

Just as scientists in the United Kingdom are ready to begin clinical trials with three-parent embryos, a study in *Nature* finds the technique may not work for some patients. The procedure is intended to help women who are mitochondrial disease carriers to give birth to healthy children. Yet, there appears to be a hitch: a new report shows some DNA carrying the disease sometimes “out-competes” the healthy mitochondrial DNA and could cause the disease—a risk found to be more common than first reported. The report’s misgivings are unlikely to derail the trials. (*CLR LifeWire, 12/19/16*)

Rev. Don Richman gave a presentation on “Eastern Europe and Russia – The Next Generation: To Kill or to Keep?” at the 2016 LFL National Conference. Check out his presentation at www.lutheransforlife.org/2016-lutherans-for-life-national-conference. Learn what’s happening in Eastern Europe and Russia relative to their abortion policies—and how their policy has depleted their population.

Jesus Christ, the Never-Changing Light of the World

by Hilary Haak

Have you ever observed children playing outside when a change in season has occurred? In the fall, children jump in great mounds of leaves for hours and hours. In the winter, they make snow angels and build snowmen until they suddenly start crying hysterically because their fingers are burning from numbness. Through the joys and tears of the changing seasons, children usually do not notice that one thing always remains the same outside—the sun and its life-sustaining warmth.

Our lives are much the same. As we indulge in—or just survive—through each change in season of our lives, one thing remains the same: the Son of God and His life-giving light, through His death and resurrection. Like children who take pleasure in jumping in leaf piles for hours, the Lord blesses us with seasons of joy:

- a student walking across the stage receiving a diploma
- a father holding his newborn son for the first time
- an elderly woman listening to college students singing the comforting hymn “Away in a Manger” at her nursing home

Times like these should make it easy for us to thank God for His many temporal blessings and for the gift of His Son for us. But we so often forget.

When the season changes and the snow is numbingly cold on our fingers, we struggle to see the Lord’s blessings:

- a loved one is beginning to suffer with dementia and is causing stress to surface in the family
- a child is no longer speaking to a father because of conflict
- a mother loses her child to miscarriage

It is in those moments, when we are at our lowest, when we are angry at God and ask “Why did you let this happen to me!” that we pray for the Holy Spirit to come through the Word to strengthen our faith. He reminds us, **“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble”** (Psalm 46:1).

Though our lives are full of suffering and challenges, we take comfort that the Lord blesses us with His Son, the Light of the world, who is never changing.

We read in Hebrews 13:8, **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”** What joy and comfort those words bring. No matter how cold our winters get here on earth, we will be home in heaven soon enough because of God’s love for us in His Son, Jesus Christ—and oh, how warm heaven will be!

*Hilary Haak is the mission and ministry director of Lutherans For Life. She would love to help you start a **Life Team** or **Life Chapter** in your area. Go to www.lutheransforlife.org/about/life-chapters-and-life-teams to find out more or contact Hilary directly at 713.677.1881 or hhaak@lutheransforlife.org.*



In Memoriam: Jean Garton

Lutherans For Life mourns the death of our dear sister, Dr. Jean Garton. Dr. Garton became a leader in advocating respect and protection for every human being following the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision. She served instrumentally in the formation of Lutherans For Life in 1978 and accepted the position of its first president.

She recently led an energetic presentation at our Lutherans For Life National Conference this past October based on the theme “Here We Stand” and there received the Dominus Vitae award in honor of her lifelong, Gospel-motivated labors to affirm God’s gift of life. Her acclaimed and influential book *Who Broke the Baby?* is entering its third edition of publication.

The entire nationwide Lutherans For Life community, even in our grief, gives enthusiastic thanks to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for Jean’s faith, compassion, wit, courage, and work.

Dr. Jean Garton entered her Heavenly Father’s eternal glory on the morning of December 23, 2016, following a brief illness. Memorials may be made in her memory to:

- the Dean Paul Garton Memorial Endowment Fund (which benefits married seminary students in need of financial assistance), Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105.
- Friends in Christ Lutheran Church, 4305 Highway 5 N., Bryant, AR 72019.
- Saline Memorial Hospice, 1 Medical Park Drive, Benton, AR 72015.

Photo: Dr. Jean Garton with LFL President Lynette Auch at the 2016 Lutherans For Life National Conference in Bloomington, Minnesota.

A few remembrances of Jean Garton ...

“My tears tear at my heart, although I rejoice in her homecoming with God. She and I go back to 1980. Every time I think of her since then, the motivation and inspiration she has given me have helped me carry on. What a treasure God gave us through her consistent FOR life work ... I praise Him for Jean and her faithful stewardship to all things concerning the Gift of Life!” *Jeanne Mackay, president of LFL of Kansas*

“What an incredible ‘sister in Jesus.’ Working with her on the Lutherans For Life Board was truly a privilege and an honor ... Jean, thanks for all you have done to wake up a sleeping church and world! When you spoke, every word was significant. We’ll see you later when it is our turn to cross over into heaven.” *Stanley M. Johnson, MD, Retired*



“In the early 1970s, it seemed the whole ‘right thinking’ world was going for abortion. The ‘smart set’ dominated every editorial page, every faculty lounge, every source of culture formation. The major Protestant denominations were all out for abortion. And the evangelicals had not yet been mobilized against it. Onto this darkening scene, Jean Garton stepped boldly. Like an accomplished actress on a stage, she made her entrances with sureness and with grace. She brought her own flair, her own special elegance and eloquence. She lifted the light of truth as high and strong as Lady Liberty lifts her torch. Jean was unafraid to challenge the powers that be ... she brought a strong faith, a never-failing dignity, and her own unique feminine charm to every scene. Jean’s charisma was a gift of God to our pro-life efforts at a time when we desperately needed it ... Jean emphasized the truly ecumenical nature of our movement. She seemed to know everyone and to have friends everywhere. Where she has gone before us, her friends will welcome her, and her Savior will prepare a place for all who love Him.”
Bob Morrison, Senior Fellow for Policy Studies Family Research Council

“Jean Garton was an inspiration to everyone who read her book *Who Broke the Baby?* and knew why she traveled far and wide with the message of life. Jean spoke for those who had no voice with the support of her husband, Rev. Chic Garton, and the courage given her by the Lord God who says, ‘I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save’ (Isaiah 46:4b).” *Linda Bartlett*

“It has been my privilege over the years to call Dr. Jean Garton my colleague, mentor, inspiration, and friend. But the epitaph that describes her best is ‘servant of the Lord of Life.’ Not only that, but we could add many adjectives to servant: tireless, faithful, courageous, stalwart, and more. I valued her advice and even her admonition a time or two. I delighted in her sense of humor. She always brought a touch of joy even when dealing with difficult topics. I mourn her death but join the whole company of heaven in rejoicing over her entrance there and her impending resurrection from the dead.”
Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life

“Jean was inspirational, encouraging people to become involved in defending the unborn. One of her sayings that I remember best summed up her approach: ‘If you are going to do nothing, don’t do it here!’ During those formative years ... we struggled with questions such as, ‘How does LFL fit within the pro-life movement?’ ... She helped LFL focus on the need for education within our Lutheran church bodies. An icon within the pro-life movement, Jean is an example of how God uses ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary tasks. We should all be grateful that Jean answered His call to participate in the formation of LFL many years ago.” *Diane Schroeder, former president, treasurer, and board member of national Lutherans For Life; former president of LFL of Illinois; and former president of DuPage County LFL*

“Dr. Jean Garton is one of the reasons I am pro-life today. As a young woman representative at a national convention, I had the opportunity to meet her and be inspired by her. My heart is so sad; I feel I lost a dear friend and mentor!” *Lynette Auch, president of Lutherans For Life*

Hope For Life



2017 Lutherans For Life Regional Conferences

Ft. Wayne, Indiana • New Braunfels, Texas • Lincoln, Nebraska • Pekin, Illinois

Mark Your Calendars!

“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect ...” (1 Peter 3:15)

Ft. Wayne, Indiana – Concordia Seminary, September 16, 2017

New Braunfels, Texas – Cross Lutheran Church, October 7, 2017

Lincoln, Nebraska – Redeemer Lutheran Church, October 21, 2017

Pekin, Illinois – St. John’s Lutheran Church, November 11, 2017

Check Out Our New Life Team Tools and Mark Your Calendar for 2017 Life Team Leader Conference Calls!

SAVE THE DATES: February 7, April 11, June 13, August 8, October 10, and December 12. These are one-hour calls to give For Life leaders “strength for their journey.” The call will be led by Pastor Doug Merkey and will include a biblical devotion, leadership coaching, idea sharing, and prayer. Find out more: www.lutheransforlife.org/about/life-chapters-and-life-teams



Automatic Withdrawal of Your bills—and LFL, Too?

Go to www.lutheransforlife.org and click “Give.” Then look for “**Automatic Monthly Debit from Your Checking or Savings Account (ACH).**” Right below this is the link: Download ACH Contribution Form. Click on that and follow the instructions, and your automatic gift withdrawal will be in place. If you have any questions or need help, feel free to contact our office at 888.364.LIFE or info@lutheransforlife.org. Many thanks in Christ! – *John Hawkins*

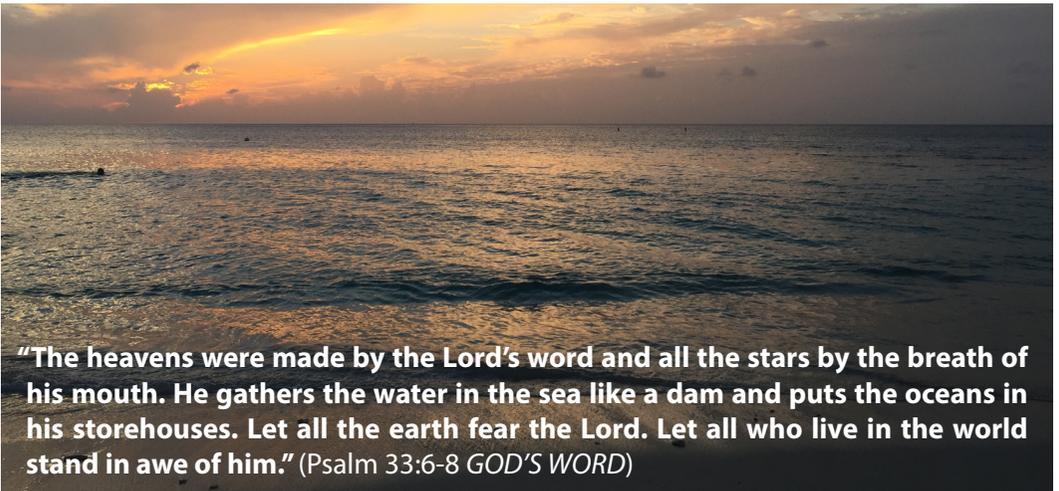
For those who have had an abortion, there is a need for a **Word of Hope**. 630.990.0909 or 888.217.8679 • help@word-of-hope.org
www.word-of-hope.org



An Island Invitation

This past October at the invitation of LCMS International Missions, arranged by LFL BOD member Rev. Charles St-Onge (area facilitator for Jamaica and the Cayman Islands), Rev. Michael W. Salemink visited the LCMS mission congregation in George Town, Grand Cayman: Safe Harbour Lutheran Church. The congregation's pastor, Rev. Leif Hasskarl, was visiting his mission-support congregations in the U.S. during that time. Rev. Salemink had the privilege of leading the Sunday morning service with Holy Communion and proclaiming the Word of the Lord among the 14 members who were present (from several nationalities). After worship, he shared about the mission and message of Lutherans For Life. (They'd never heard of us!) They were enthusiastic and supportive, especially since none of them were aware of any pregnancy-support ministry on the island (population of about 60,000). The congregation is currently developing a childcare ministry which the community greatly needs.

Photos (clockwise): Rev. Salemink with the day's lone Sunday school student; Members of Safe Harbour Lutheran Church with Rev. Salemink; the world-famous Seven Mile Beach.



Giving “Unusual” Gifts to Ministry

by John Hawkins, director of development for Lutherans For Life

Over the years, I—and many others—have written in LifeDate about the basic ways to leave an estate or planned gift to ministry. Examples include a bequest of cash or real estate, designating what’s left in an IRA or other tax-deferred account, a percentage of the death benefit from your life insurance policy, setting up a charitable trust, and so on. All of these options make sense and certainly are encouraged. But is that all there is? Is there nothing else that can be done, or at least something out of the ordinary or “unusual” that can be given? The answer is yes, and they can be donated either as a current or estate gift. Let’s look at some.

U.S. Savings Bonds – If you’re like me, you may have one or more of these which have fully matured in your safe deposit box. Last fall, Lutherans For Life received the proceeds from a bond from a gentleman I’ll call “Martin.”

In December 1994, Martin purchased a \$75.00 face value Series EE Savings Bond for \$37.50. In January 2012, the bond matured, reaching the full \$75.00 which Martin continued to hold. In September of last year, Martin redeemed or “cashed in” the bond for \$88.77. The total interest earned was \$51.27. (Ordinary income tax for the latter amount will be owed for 2016.) Martin then donated the proceeds of \$88.77 to LFL. (He will likewise take an itemized tax deduction in 2016 for the same.)

Alternatively, Martin could have continued to hold the bond as it would have earned interest for 12 more years. Let’s say, however, that he decided instead to bequeath the bond to LFL as a future estate gift. In doing so, Martin would have to include either in his will or living trust the date it was issued, face dollar value, and serial number, and designate to whom it was issued (i.e. Martin).

Now, let’s say Martin is then called home to heaven the same year the bond quits earning interest (2024). In this case, the \$150 valued bond would pass to LFL tax free as so bequeathed. What would happen if Martin instead leaves the bond to family? Similar to an inherited IRA, they would owe ordinary income tax on the interest accumulation (\$112.50).

Of course, this is an example of a small donation using a bond. But the variables above would apply also to gifts of larger bonds or multiple small bonds which collectively add up to much more.

Grain – The main advantages here are, first and foremost, benefiting ministry and avoiding ordinary income tax from selling the crop. (Note: there is no charitable deduction because related costs are deducted as a business expense.) The donation steps are as follows: The donor delivers grain to the elevator, and the elevator is advised that it is a gift for Lutherans For Life (or another ministry) and that it should be placed in their name. (If expenses will be incurred related to the transfer/storage, arrangements should be made for the donor to cover these before the gift is made.) Since it is owned by Lutherans For Life (or another ministry), the elevator shouldn’t sell the grain until they have permission. Once this is done, the ministry receives the proceeds.

Current Gift of an Existing Life Insurance Policy – Here two approaches can be taken. A: You can direct the dividends be paid to the ministry and you would receive a charitable deduction for the donated dollar amount. B: The policy (which has cash value) can be donated to the ministry (with no rights retained by the donor). The recipient ministry should then value the gift at its interpolated terminal value shown on Form 712 as issued by the insurance company.

Precious Metals – Donating precious metals is generally considered to be a gift of “tangible personal property.” As such, the charitable deduction is limited to its “cost basis” (whether “coin” or “bar”). However, the donor avoids paying a 28% “collectables rate” tax on any gain if they had decided to sell the piece instead. (Note: precious metals can also be bequeathed via a will or living trust.)

Other Personal Property (valued at up to \$5,000) – There are two important considerations here: Can the ministry *actually use* the item donated? If not for use, can the ministry easily convert the item into cash (and *are you OK* with that)?

In either case, if the item donated is worth less than \$5,000, an acknowledgment from the ministry stating value is needed for a deduction (which hopefully the ministry is comfortable providing). If it is worth more than \$5,000, a written appraisal should be done and Form 8283 completed.

Likewise, personal property can also be left as an estate gift via a will or living trust. I would strongly suggest contacting the ministry in advance to make sure one of the above considerations apply.

If you are interested in making an estate or special gift to Lutherans For Life, feel free to contact me (in complete confidence) at 512.468.9777 or jhawkins@lutherans-forlife.org.

Many thanks and may God bless you today and always.

You will find a presentation by John Hawkins on unusual gifts to ministry at this link:

www.LutheransforLife.org/2016-Lutherans-for-Life-national-conference

Also see: www.LutheransforLife.org/give



Buying or selling a home or commercial property? You can support Lutherans For Life at no cost to you by taking advantage of the Real Estate for Life program. Call 877.543.3871 or email proliferealestate@yahoo.com for more information.

www.realestateforlife.org

www.lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life

2016 Congregational Donor Honor Roll

Lutherans For Life is very grateful to the following congregations for their financial support in 2016. To God be the Glory! *Please note that space does not permit us to list contributing auxiliaries and organizations from supporting churches. A separate roll of these groups will be included within the Summer 2017 issue of LifeDate.*

Abiding Faith Lutheran Church, Florence, KY; Abounding Joy Lutheran Church, Saint Cloud, MN; Altamont Area Lutheran Churches, Altamont, IL; Apostolic Lutheran Church in Moses Lake, Moses Lake, WA; Ascension Lutheran Church, Littleton, CO; Ascension Lutheran Church, Ames, IA; Ascension Lutheran Church, Waterloo, IA; Ascension Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN; Ascension Lutheran Church, Cleburne, TX; Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Broomfield, CO; Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, North Platte, NE; Bethesda Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL; Bethesda Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, SD; Bethlehem Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, IL; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Jacksonville Beach, FL; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lewiston, MI; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Standish, MI; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ravenna, NE; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ridgewood, NJ; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Parma, OH; Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church, Brandon, SD; Calvary Free Lutheran Church, Eben Junction, MI; Calvary Lutheran Church, Lincoln, NE; Calvary Lutheran Church, Verona, NJ; Christ Lutheran Church, Brea, CA; Christ Lutheran Church, Shingleton, MI; Christ Lutheran Church, Creighton, NE; Christ Lutheran Church, Clinton, WI; Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Elizabeth, CO; Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Roscoe, IL; Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Livonia, MI; Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lago Vista, TX; Christ the King Luth Church, Redlands, CA; Christ the King Lutheran Church, Spencer, IA; Christ the King Lutheran Church, Natchitoches, LA; Concordia Lutheran Church, Evansville, IN; Concordia Lutheran Church, Hagerstown, MD; Concordia Lutheran Church, Frohna, MO; Concordia Lutheran Church, Maplewood, MO; Concordia Lutheran Church, Oakwood, OH; Cross Lutheran Church, Omaha, NE; Cross Lutheran Church, New Braunfels, TX; Crown of Life Lutheran Church, San Antonio, TX; Divine Savior Lutheran Church, Hartford, WI; Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, Bolingbrook, IL; Ebenezer Free Lutheran Church, Northwood, ND; Ebenezer Lutheran Church (Manheim), Paige, TX; Elm Grove Lutheran Church, Elm Grove, WI; Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Dwight, IL; Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Tell City, IN; Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Tipton, IN; Emmaus Lutheran Church, Poy Sippi, WI; Ev. Lutheran Emanuel Church of Patchogue, Patchogue, NY; Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Michael, Chicago, IL; Faith Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, NV; Faith Lutheran Church, Craig, CO; Faith Lutheran Church, Orange City, IA; Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux City, IA; Faith Lutheran Church, Columbus, IN; Faith Lutheran Church, Madison, IN; Faith Lutheran Church, Abilene, KS; Faith Lutheran Church, Derby, KS; Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka, KS; Faith Lutheran Church, Hopkinsville, KY; Faith Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, MI; Faith Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN; Faith Lutheran Church, Jefferson City, MO; Faith Lutheran Church, Easton, PA; Faith Lutheran Church, Humboldt, SD; Faith Lutheran Church, Georgetown, TX; Faith Lutheran Church, Grand Prairie, TX; Faith Lutheran Church, Lampasas, TX; Faith Lutheran Church, Plano, TX; First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, Victoria, TX; First English Lutheran Church, Spencer, IA; First English Lutheran Church, Spring Valley, MN; First Ev. Lutheran Church, Wiota, IA; First Ev. Lutheran Church, Orange Grove, TX; First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Houston, TX; First Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Cong., Cedarburg, WI; First Lutheran Church, Benton, AR; First Lutheran Church, Charlotte, MI; First Lutheran Church, Missoula, MT; Fishers of Men Lutheran Church, Port Isabel, TX; Gift of Grace Lutheran Church, Holmen, WI; Gloria Dei Ev. Luth. Church of Escondido, Escondido, CA; Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Central Point, OR; Good News Ministries Lutheran Church, Whittimore, MI; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Bloomington, IL; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Collinsville, IL; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Circle Pines, MN; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Morris, MN; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Arnold, MO; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Edgewood, NM; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Toledo, OH; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, York, PA; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Azle, TX; Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, Norfolk, NE; Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, McPherson, KS; Grace Free Lutheran Church, Valley City, ND; Grace Lutheran Church, Visalia, CA; Grace Lutheran Church, Blairstown, IA; Grace Lutheran Church, Le Mars, IA; Grace Lutheran Church, Streamwood, IL; Grace Lutheran Church, Wichita, KS; Grace Lutheran Church, Auburn, MI; Grace Lutheran Church, Fairgrove, MI; Grace Lutheran Church, Wayne, NE; Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville, TN; Grace Lutheran Church, Denison, TX; Grace Lutheran Church, Midland, TX; Grace Lutheran Church, San Marcos, TX; Grace Lutheran Church, Blaine, WA; Grace Lutheran Church, Kewaunee, WI; Guardian Lutheran Church, Dearborn, MI; Heavenly Host Lutheran Church, Cookeville, TN; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Concord, CA; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Warren, MI; Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Emma, MO; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Terryville, CT; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Masaryktown, FL; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Mound City, MO; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmond, OK; Hope Ev. Lutheran Church, Aurora, IL; Hope Lutheran Church, Aurora, CO; Hope Lutheran Church, Granite City, IL; Hope Lutheran Church, Saint Louis, MO; Hope Lutheran Church, Winnie, TX; Hope Lutheran Church, Edgar, WI; Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church,

Steger, IL; Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Ironwood, MI; Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Manchester, NH; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Pasadena, CA; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Iowa Falls, IA; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Schleswig, IA; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Des Plaines, IL; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hinckley, IL; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lindenwood, IL; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tuscola, IL; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Michigan City, IN; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Valparaiso, IN; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hoxie, KS; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norton, KS; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Murray, KY; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Maple Lake, MN; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Sweet Springs, MO; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Beemer, NE; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Eagle, NE; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Roswell, NM; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Oklahoma City, OK; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Sumter, SC; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mercedes, TX; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mayville, WI; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Powell, WY; King of Glory Lutheran Church, Blaine, MN; Kongsvinger Lutheran Church, Oslo, MN; Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Humble, TX; Living Faith Free Lutheran Church, Larimore, ND; Living Word Free Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD; Living Word Lutheran Church, Orland Park, IL; Living Word Lutheran Church, Grapevine, TX; Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Plano, TX; Lutheran Church of the Cross, Kent, WA; Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Pensacola, FL; Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Waterville, ME; Lutheran Church of The Risen Savior, Green Valley, AZ; Messiah Lutheran Church, Carlyle, IL; Messiah Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MI; Messiah Lutheran Church, Charlotte, NC; Messiah Lutheran Church, Oklahoma City, OK; Messiah Lutheran Church, Plano, TX; Mount Calvary Ev. Lutheran Church, Omaha, NE; Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Indianola, IA; Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Franklin Park, IL; Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Bayard, NE; Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, San Antonio, TX; Mount Carmel Free Lutheran Church, Mcintosh, MN; Mount Hope Lutheran Church, Boulder, CO; Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Omaha, NE; Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Huron, SD; Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Richfield, MN; Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Brookings, SD; Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Loveland, CO; Our Father Lutheran Church, Centennial, CO; Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Iowa City, IA; Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Carrollton, IL; Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Eureka, IL; Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kinsley, KS; Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kingsford, MI; Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Washington, MI; Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Solon, OH; Our Redeemers Lutheran Church, Williston, ND; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bettendorf, IA; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Joliet, IL; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Union City, MI; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, MN; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Centereach, NY; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Houston, TX; Our Savior Lutheran Church of Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids, MI; Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN; Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Des Moines, IA; Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Saint Paul, MN; Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Avon, IN; Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Birmingham, MI; Peace Ev. Lutheran Church, Des Moines, IA; Peace Lutheran Church, Pico Rivera, CA; Peace Lutheran Church, Glidden, IA; Peace Lutheran Church, Sioux Center, IA; Peace Lutheran Church, Wall Lake, IA; Peace Lutheran Church, West Bend, IA; Peace Lutheran Church, Fremont, IN; Peace Lutheran Church, Columbus, NE; Peace Lutheran Church, Chardon, OH; Peace Lutheran Church, Hurst, TX; Peace Lutheran Church, Chehalis, WA; Peace Lutheran Church, Neenah, WI; Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Quimby, IA; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, San Diego, CA; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge, IA; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Crystal Lake, IL; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Goshen, IN; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Crestwood, MO; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Highland, IN; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Dickinson, ND; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sidney, OH; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Harriman, TN; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Benbrook, TX; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Nacogdoches, TX; Risen Christ Lutheran Church, Davenport, IA; Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita, KS; Ruthfred Lutheran Church AFLC, Bethel Park, PA; Saint John Lutheran Church, Ellinwood, KS; Saint John Lutheran Church, Hazleton, PA; Saint John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Sayville, NY; Saint Luke Lutheran Church, Elcho, WI; Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Readlyn, IA; Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Manito, IL; Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Pana, IL; Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, Cuba, MO; Saint Peter Lutheran Church (Waymansville), Columbus, IN; Salem Lutheran Church, Radcliffe, IA; Salem Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MN; Salem Lutheran Church, Black Jack, MO; Salem Lutheran Church, Salem, MO; Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Horseshoe Bend, AR; Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Yuma, AZ; Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Lead, SD; Shepherd's Gate Lutheran Church, Shelby Township, MI; Singaas Free Lutheran Church, Hendricks, MN; South Shore Trinity Lutheran Church, White Bear Lake, MN; St Andrew Lutheran Church, Rockton, IL; St Andrew Lutheran Church, Wichita, KS; St Andrew Lutheran Church, Portland, MI; St John Ev Lutheran Church, Milford, IL; St John Lutheran Church, Reinbeck, IA; St John Lutheran Church, State Center, IA; St John Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN; St John Lutheran Church, Au Gres, MI; St John Lutheran Church, Fraser, MI; St John Lutheran Church, Houghton Lake, MI; St John Lutheran Church, Rogers City, MI; St John Lutheran Church, Luverne, MN; St John Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, NE; St Johns Ev. Lutheran Church, Wellsburg, IA; St John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Union, IL; St Johns Ev. Lutheran Church, Waterbury, CT; St John Lutheran Church, Sioux Center, IA; St John's Lutheran Church, Waco, NE; St Lorenz Lutheran Church, Frankenmuth, MI; St Lukes Lutheran Church, Houston, TX; St Mark Lutheran Church, Waco, TX; St Matthew Lutheran Church, Holt, MI; St Matthew's Ev. Luth. Church, Max, ND; St Paul Lutheran Church, Eldora, IA; St Paul Lutheran Church, Garner, IA; St Paul Lutheran Church, McGregor, IA; St Paul Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, IA; St Paul Lutheran Church, Bremen, IN; St Paul Lutheran Church, Unionville, MI; St Paul Lutheran Church, Kensington, MN; St Paul Lutheran Church, Orchard, NE; St Paul Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY; St Paul Lutheran Church, Big Spring, TX; St Paul

2016 Congregational Honor Roll

Lutheran Church, Bulverde, TX; St Paul Ev. Lutheran Church of Wildwood, Wildwood, MO; St Paul Lutheran Church, Jerome, ID; St Paul Lutheran Church, Richville, MN; St Paul Lutheran Church, Arlington, NE; St Paul's Lutheran Church, Milan, MI; St Peter Lutheran Church, Arlington Heights, IL; St Peter Lutheran Church, Macomb, MI; St Peter Lutheran Church, Gresham, NE; St Peters Lutheran Church, Wentworth, SD; St Timothy Lutheran Church, Houston, TX; St. Andrews Lutheran Church, Van Home, IA; St. James Lutheran Church, Quincy, IL; St. James Lutheran Church, Archbold, OH; St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, Angola, NY; St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, Strongsville, OH; St. John Lutheran Church, Alta, IA; St. John Lutheran Church, Clinton, IA; St. John Lutheran Church, Newhall, IA; St. John Lutheran Church, Waverly, IA; St. John Lutheran Church, Darien, IL; St. John Lutheran Church, Lincoln, KS; St. John Lutheran Church, Ray, MI; St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Topeka, KS; St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Pocahontas, MO; St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, College Point, NY; St. John Lutheran Church, Homestead, IA; St. John Lutheran Church, Effingham, IL; St. John Lutheran Church, Fallon, NV; St. John Lutheran Church, Wapakoneta, OH; St. John's Lutheran Church, Center Point, IA; St. John's Lutheran Church, Chatham, IL; St. John's Lutheran Church, Pecatonica, IL; St. John's Lutheran Church, Pekin, IL; St. John's Lutheran Church, Secor, IL; St. John's Lutheran Church, New Boston, MI; St. John's Lutheran Church, Sherburn, MN; St. John's Lutheran Church, Mexico, MO; St. John's Lutheran Church, Laurel, MT; St. John's Lutheran Church, Wilcox, NE; St. John's Lutheran Church, Ambridge, PA; St. John Lutheran Congregation, Fredonia, WI; St. Luke Lutheran Church, Harrison, MI; St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Manhattan, KS; St. Luke's Lutheran Church, New Richmond, WI; St. Mark Lutheran Church, Omaha, NE; St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Benson, MN; St. Martin Lutheran Church, Chilton, WI; St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Concordia, MO; St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI; St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, New Milford, NJ; St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, Decatur, IN; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ames, IA; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Carroll, IA; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Skokie, IL; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Cincinnati, OH; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Kingsville, TX; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wilson, TX; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Cumberland, WI; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Stevens Point, WI; St. Paul Lutheran Church - Otis, Westville, IN; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Inc., Miami, FL; St. Paul Lutheran Congregation (Siegel), Tripoli, IA; St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, Munster, IN; St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Lockport, IL; St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Cudahy, WI; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Potter, NE; St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Marion, IA; St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Bourbonnais, IL; St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Strasburg, IL; St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cheney, KS; St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ceylon, MN; St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Prior Lake, MN; St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Des Peres, MO; St. Peter Lutheran Church, Orchard, NE; St. Peter Lutheran Church, Dorchester, WI; St. Salvator Lutheran Church, Venedy, IL; St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Waterford, MI; St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Atkins, IA; Stavanger Lutheran Church, Garden City, IA; The First Lutheran Church of Boston, Boston, MA; Timothy Lutheran Church, Council Blfs, IA; Timothy Lutheran Church, Blue Springs, MO; Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Cissna Park, IL; Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Roselle, IL; Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Broken Arrow, OK; Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spencer, WI; Trinity Lutheran Church, San Pedro, CA; Trinity Lutheran Church, Sterling, CO; Trinity Lutheran Church, Chariton, IA; Trinity Lutheran Church, Creston, IA; Trinity Lutheran Church, Davenport, IA; Trinity Lutheran Church, Hampton, IA; Trinity Lutheran Church, Marcus, IA; Trinity Lutheran Church, Arenzville, IL; Trinity Lutheran Church, Auburn, IL; Trinity Lutheran Church, Burr Ridge, IL; Trinity Lutheran Church, Manito, IL; Trinity Lutheran Church, Pekin, IL; Trinity Lutheran Church, Salina, KS; Trinity Lutheran Church, Conklin, MI; Trinity Lutheran Church, Monroe, MI; Trinity Lutheran Church, Reese, MI; Trinity Lutheran Church, Appleton, MN; Trinity Lutheran Church, Faribault, MN; Trinity Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN; Trinity Lutheran Church, Staples, MN; Trinity Lutheran Church, Alma, MO; Trinity Lutheran Church, Tryon, NC; Trinity Lutheran Church, Arapahoe, NE; Trinity Lutheran Church, Auburn, NE; Trinity Lutheran Church, Murdock, NE; Trinity Lutheran Church, Walton, NE; Trinity Lutheran Church, Alamogordo, NM; Trinity Lutheran Church, Lockport, NY; Trinity Lutheran Church, Norman, OK; Trinity Lutheran Church, Dyersburg, TN; Trinity Lutheran Church, Blanco, TX; Trinity Lutheran Church, San Angelo, TX; Trinity Lutheran Church, Mount Vernon, WA; Trinity Lutheran Church, Olympia, WA; Trinity Lutheran Church Freistadt, Mequon, WI; Unity Ev. Lutheran Church, Des Moines, IA; Victory in Christ Lutheran Church, Newark, TX; Village Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO; West Portal Lutheran Church, San Francisco, CA; Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Pocahontas, MO; Zion Lutheran Church, London, AR; Zion Lutheran Church, Terra Bella, CA; Zion Lutheran Church, Atlantic, IA; Zion Lutheran Church, Hiawatha, IA; Zion Lutheran Church, Humboldt, IA; Zion Lutheran Church, Mallard, IA; Zion Lutheran Church, Beecher, IL; Zion Lutheran Church, Independence, KS; Zion Lutheran Church, Offerle, KS; Zion Lutheran Church, Marshall, MI; Zion Lutheran Church, Mount Pleasant, MI; Zion Lutheran Church, Mayer, MN; Zion Lutheran Church, Morris, MN; Zion Lutheran Church, Blackburn, MO; Zion Lutheran Church, Poplar Bluff, MO; Zion Lutheran Church, Hampton, NE; Zion Lutheran Church, Clark, NJ; Zion Lutheran Church, Fairmont, OK; Zion Lutheran Church, Oklahoma City, OK; Zion Lutheran Church, Abilene, TX; Zion Lutheran Church, Pampa, TX; Zion Lutheran Church, Priddy, TX; Zion Lutheran Church of Mission Valley, Victoria, TX; Zion-Penn Ridge Lutheran Church, Glasford, IL; Zion's Ev. Lutheran Congregation, New Holstein, WI; Zion-St John Lutheran Church, Wisner, NE.

While every effort was made to include all contributing churches, we regret any that may have been omitted by oversight.

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.

Equips local congregations to speak out on life issues in their communities through Life Chapters and Life Teams. Many Lutherans For Life State Federations and Life 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

- Lynette Auch, President – Lesterville, South Dakota
Rev. Everette Greene, Vice President – Cincinnati, Ohio
Henry A. Gallmeyer, Secretary – Decatur, Indiana
Ronald L. Soule, Treasurer – Mason, Michigan
Keith Alabach, State Representative – Marion, Indiana
Diane Albers, State Representative – St. Louis, Missouri
Col. John Eidsmoe – Pike Road, Alabama
Renee Gibbs – St. Louis, Missouri
Stephanie Hovland – Portage, Wisconsin
Deaconess Tiffany Manor – New Hartford, Connecticut
Paula Oldenburg, State Representative – Rhinelander, Wisconsin
Sheila Page, DO – Aledo, Texas
Rev. Charles St-Onge – Deux-Montagnes, Quebec, Canada

LFL Council of State Federation Presidents

- Deb Lakamp, Illinois – East Peoria
Keith Alabach, Indiana – Marion
Rev. Rich Salcido, Iowa – Ida Grove
Jeanne Mackay, Kansas – Lenexa
Connie Davis, Michigan – Macomb
Diane Albers, Missouri – St. Louis
Helen Lewis, Montana – Great Falls
Bob Saeger, Nebraska – Waco
Rev. Chris Brademeyer, North Dakota – Buffalo
Jill Johnsen, South Dakota – Wessington
Paula Oldenburg, Wisconsin – Rhinelander

LFL has 11 State Federations, 93 Life Chapters, 110 Life Ministry Coordinators, and 103 Life Teams in the US.

LifeDate

Lutherans
For Life

1101 5th Street • Nevada, IA 50201-1816 • ISSN 1098-5859

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Des Moines, IA
Permit No. 589

Mark your calendars ...

Hope for Life - 2017 LFL Regional Conferences

Ft. Wayne, Indiana - September 16

New Braunfels, Texas - October 7

Lincoln, Nebraska - October 21

Pekin, Illinois - November 11

