



Lutherans For Life of Illinois

January, 2018

Enclosed is some information relating to the 2018 Lutherans For Life Essay Contest. As I mentioned in my letter in November, Lutherans For Life of Illinois has elected to modify its contest to conform to the structure of several other state LFL organizations that have conducted essay contests over the years. This change provides the Illinois winner with an opportunity to compete at the national level with the same essay.

One of the biggest differences that you will note is in the 'grading'. The teacher (or the pastor) will assess the essays on the point system found on the enclosed "Rubric for Assessment of the Life Essay". This is the same rubric used by the LFL of Illinois reviewers and by the group who will be assessing the various state winners to determine the national winner. Knowing in advance exactly what the reviewers are expecting in an essay should be valuable to success in the contest.

While the timing had, in the past, centered around Life Sunday, the new schedule does not. Note that the selected essays and the 'cover sheet' with the teacher's/pastor's information must be sent as an email attachment to Deb Lakamp, lakamps@gmail.com, by March 15, 2018. Deb will be receiving the top essay from each school/church, working with a group to assess the winners (first, second and third place), and then forwarding the first place essay on to the national contest.

As one of the judges for the 'old' Lutherans For Life Essay contest for the past 24 years, I can assure you that we received so many deserving essays that choosing just a few award winners each year was extremely difficult. I always recognized the amount of effort that went into creating these essays and was thankful for the teachers and other adults who guided the young authors towards looking at these issues from a Biblical perspective. Yes, it is a contest, but by far the most important aspect is the thoughtful examination of these topics which are so important.

To repeat the sentiment from my November letter... It is my sincere hope that those schools who have participated in the past will continue to participate in this new collaboration and blend the local classroom experience with the national contest. I would encourage those schools who have not participated, or who have not done so in a while, to take this opportunity to engage with your students in this extremely important life-affirming discussion by making use of the contest framework and the resources available to you from Lutherans For Life.

In Christian Love,

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