

# LifeDate

Fall  
2018



A quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life

## For Life and Living with Disability

With a culture that wants to not just eliminate disability, but those with disability, how does the Christian respond?

“BEAR ONE  
ANOTHER’S BURDENS,  
AND SO FULFILL THE  
LAW OF CHRIST.”  
(GALATIANS 6:2)

Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life!

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*Like and follow us on ...*



# Lutherans For Life

Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-  
motivated voices For Life

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## Ten Blessings of Loving Someone with Special Needs

by Pastor Michael Salemink

All children have special needs. Every human being comes with unique and individual needs. Their distinctive circumstances and personalities may bring certain challenges, but they also grant irreplaceable blessings. Where sin sees others—with or without disabilities—as threats to personal desires and priorities, Christian grace and faith can see them as gifts of hope and purpose and receive them as treasures and joys.

Here are just ten of the many ways:

1. **They prove God sustains.** Despite what individuals without disabilities might assume, persons with disabilities enjoy their lives as much as anyone else. They appreciate all its opportunities and gifts, even in the midst of affliction.
2. **They embody grace.** Living with disability proclaims that age, appearance, and ability don't make a person more or less valuable. Rather, God's love in creating, redeeming, and calling pronounces every member of our race precious.
3. **They model community.** Persons who have impairments demonstrate how all human beings get to depend upon our Heavenly Father and upon each other.
4. **They add another viewpoint.** Those who lack what many take for granted contribute insights on life and relationships that we might not otherwise experience.
5. **They invite servanthood.** Neighbors that require particular attention and assistance provide us with opportunities to step outside ourselves and our concerns for the privilege of showing compassion.
6. **They surprise.** What a delight to witness in these exceptional people how God's goodness can't be limited by our expectations and familiarities!
7. **They underscore the promises of Paradise.** When brokenness becomes more obvious, it highlights the comfort that comes from our hope in the resurrection to everlasting life in our Savior's new creation.
8. **They prepare us to help others.** Practicing acts of kindness toward the ones whose needs we can clearly perceive trains and shapes us for aiding everybody around us, especially the least of these.
9. **They personify Christ.** In the hurts and handicaps of individuals with disabilities, we encounter Christ Himself who incarnates heaven among us in humility. They draw us near to the Father whose power is made perfect in weakness—and not just theirs but even ours.
10. **They blaze us a trail.** Loving someone with special needs prepares us to face the days when our own frailties inevitably increase. Whether those frailties show up in injuries or ailments or age, we will have learned how to inhabit them with courage.



### An Answer to 20 Years of Prayer!

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

In 1999, Planned Parenthood (PP) opened its Heartland Clinic in Bettendorf, Iowa. As in many of PP's activities, the opening of this abortion clinic was shielded from the public until it was too late to stop it. So, every day two women from the local Life and Family Coalition parked a trailer on the property across the street from the clinic, protesting and encouraging women to give life to their babies.

As a result of their efforts, the Women's Choice Center (WCC) opened its doors on July 2, 2002, offering pregnancy tests, counseling, and material goods. Throughout subsequent years, they expanded their services to include ultrasound, STD testing, and perinatal hospice support, as well as a mobile medical unit that visits seven locations in the Quad Cities. The number of women coming for help continued to expand, with WCC serving 1,500 women in 2017. However, their main goal was always to see Heartland Planned Parenthood located across the street close their doors—the original goal of the Life and Family Coalition.

**After almost 20 years of prayers, God worked one of His miracles. The Iowa legislature succeeded in removing Medicaid and state funding from Planned Parenthood. In response, PP closed four Iowa clinics, Heartland being one of them.**

After approximately 10,000 abortions had been performed in that building, a plan for its redemption was conceived by WCC that involved its purchase and conversion into a pro-life and pro-family ministry.

Knowing that PP would never sell to them directly, WCC used an intermediary to purchase the building for one million dollars—three times less than what PP had paid for its construction. A local priest was called to perform exorcisms in the killing



(l-r) Mark Zimmerman and Ron Spiva gutting the rooms at the former Planned Parenthood abortion clinic.



rooms, which have been gutted and turned into counseling and ultrasound rooms. One half of the 8,500 square foot building will be devoted to the work of WCC with two ultrasound rooms, two counseling rooms, several exam rooms, and space for offices, as well as Chloe's Closet which gives material support to pregnant women and their families. The mobile unit will continue supplying services around the community. The other half of the building will be devoted to a pro-life, pro-family, faith-based family medical practice that will offer, in addition to OB-GYN services through 28 weeks of pregnancy, mental health services and fertility treatment, including NaPro technology. A Christian daycare organization will be moving into the former WCC building and will offer daycare to about 50 children from six weeks to 13 years of age.

Pastor Keith Piotter and the members of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Bettendorf have been involved in the work of WCC for many years. They have contributed financial support and countless volunteer hours, participated in prayer vigils and celebrations, and partnered with WCC in facility sharing. Just recently, the church sponsored a "Legacy Donor Thank You Banquet" at the church. Pastor Piotter has been on the WCC Board of Directors for four years and has participated in all of the major decisions to confront PP and convert their building into a vibrant pro-life ministry that is saving lives.

**"For 18 years Planned Parenthood has had a killing center one mile from our church. Many prayers and efforts have been given to see this curse removed from our neighborhood. In God's time, we are now able to celebrate the closing and conversion of this center as an exciting miracle that has happened in our community." *Pastor Keith Piotter***

Closing Heartland PP and seeing it converted to a pro-life ministry was a dream of retiring WCC Executive Director, Vicki Tyler, that has now come to fruition:

**"Everything that was in here was dark. There was no life here. There was death," she said. "It's not like that anymore. It's full of life ... We thank God and give Him the glory."**



### There Already Is a Law

by Deaconess Tiffany Manor

Women who find out they are unexpectedly pregnant can be vulnerable. Author Emily Heiden described in a recent *Hartford Courant* article<sup>1</sup> published on June 29, 2018, being desperate and in despair during an unplanned pregnancy when she happened across a website for a crisis pregnancy center that she later visited. I can relate to the experiences Heiden described during an unplanned pregnancy because I also have experienced an unexpected pregnancy and visited a crisis pregnancy center.

I was raised and educated to be a feminist, publicly and vocally pro-choice. My experiences with crisis pregnancy centers have been markedly different from Emily's description and other *Hartford Courant* articles that referred to so-called deceptive practices (which included using the color purple on signage as well as the staff's choice of apparel, practices that don't seem particularly deceitful to my reading).

I have not experienced deception with the multiple crisis pregnancy centers I have visited. When asked if such centers provide abortions, the answer provided was always "no." I was never forced to view photos or videos like the ones Heiden described, and I presume she must not have experienced force either, or she would have pressed charges for being held against her will.

My experiences were of quiet, calm, professional office spaces where pregnancy tests and ultrasounds were performed. I met compassionate staff members, including licensed doctors and nurses, all of whom were women, who competently answered the questions posed to them, and who provided valuable referrals. No information was ever pushed on me. I experienced items such as maternity clothing, diapers, and infant clothing provided to clients without charge.



"Quiet"

"Calm"

"Professional"

"Compassionate"

"Competent"

"Valuable"

*The author's impressions of crisis pregnancy centers.*

I now describe myself as life affirming and have done a great deal of research to learn more about beginning-of-life and end-of-life issues. Most recently my research has indicated that additional legislation is not necessary because we already have protective laws in place guarding against deception. A *Courant* editorial published on July 5, 2018, with the headline “There Must Be a Law”<sup>2</sup> said that Connecticut should pass legislation that specifically forbids deceptive practices by crisis pregnancy centers.

Connecticut already has laws about fraudulent and deceptive advertising and legal protection for all consumers, which would presumably also cover individuals who visit pregnancy centers to receive services. The Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act, found in the Connecticut General Statutes section 42-110b, uses three criteria to discern whether a practice is unfair or deceptive. The criteria are:

- whether the practice, without necessarily having been previously considered unlawful, offends public policy as it has been established by statutes, the common law, or otherwise—in other words, it is within at least the penumbra of some common law, statutory, or other established concept of unfairness;
- whether it is immoral, unethical, oppressive, or unscrupulous;
- whether it causes substantial injury to consumers (competitors or other business persons).

Because of the existing Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act, and particularly the criteria addressing practices that are “immoral, unethical, oppressive, or unscrupulous,” there is no need to pass additional legislation that specifically targets pregnancy centers.

1. [www.courant.com/opinion/op-ed/hc-op-insight-heiden-supreme-court-pregnancy-crisis-20180628-story.html](http://www.courant.com/opinion/op-ed/hc-op-insight-heiden-supreme-court-pregnancy-crisis-20180628-story.html)
2. [www.courant.com/opinion/editorials/hc-ed-connecticut-crisis-pregnancy-centers-law-20180628-story.html](http://www.courant.com/opinion/editorials/hc-ed-connecticut-crisis-pregnancy-centers-law-20180628-story.html)

*Deaconess Tiffany Manor is a member of the LFL Board of Directors and lives in Connecticut. A version of this article originally appeared as an op-ed in the Hartford Courant.*



**Are you facing a dark, confusing time in your life right now? Perhaps you fear you are pregnant or have just learned that you are, indeed, pregnant. Find out more and get help: [www.lutheransforlife.org/life-issues/crisis-pregnancy](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/life-issues/crisis-pregnancy)**



## Does Disability Warrant Abortion or Assisted Suicide?

by Pastor Michael Salemink

What if there's a disability? Some supporters of abortion use disability to justify it. Advocates of assisted suicide often do too. Disabilities can present challenges for the persons who have them. Certain conditions do cut lifespans. They might bring about death, even before birth or shortly after. All of these concerns can cause difficulties and suffering for the patients' loved ones. We must not dismiss the weight of the fears and griefs they face.

So, should we sanction abortion or assisted suicide for their situations? May we decriminalize the ending of lives in order to avoid their afflictions? Does disability constitute a capital offense? Are deadly measures the only remedies available for disability? Are they even the best responses? How do abortion access and poison prescriptions make things better for persons with disabilities, especially the ones who desire to survive?

We rejoice that disability does not diminish a person's worth. What we are—not what we do—gives us our value. Persons who exhibit less-than-average intelligence do not have an inferior humanity because of it. Greater strength, skill, insight, or attractiveness does not get one twice the rights. Those who develop injuries or disorders do not suddenly become a fraction of their former self. Individuals with only one arm or ear or lung or leg—or none at all—still possess genetic membership in this particular species. They still possess Almighty God's own image just as much as anybody with enough bones or extra organs.

Jesus explicitly welcomed and intentionally affirmed visibly broken folks in His earthly ministry. He did it to indicate that none of us can accomplish anything apart from His grace, but that by abiding in Him, anyone can bear abundant fruit. The same fallenness that manifests in physical limitations affects us all. He also incarnated disabilities and endured deformities in His crucifixion (**"He took our illnesses and bore our diseases"** Matthew 8:17) to declare and demonstrate how God cherishes even the least of these as precious treasures. This gives purpose to our every pain (**"but**

Ask not, "What if there's a disability?"  
Ask instead, "So what if there's a disability?"



that the works of God might be displayed” John 9:3b), as He perfects His power precisely in human weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). In fact, He specifically selects what is foolish and weak, what is low and despised (1 Corinthians 1:27-28) to prove His saving strength (2 Corinthians 4:7-10).

Most persons with disabilities appreciate and enjoy their lives. Their families feel grateful to know them and have them and love them. Doctors regularly misdiagnose, but no medical professional can undo a death. Many disabilities and deformities do not turn out as challenging as feared. Living with disability can actually offer advantages. It motivates us to compassion and cooperation. It provides unique and otherwise overlooked perspectives on life and relationships.

On the other hand, using death to deal with adversity multiplies misery. Getting rid of a person cheaply imitates getting rid of a problem. Getting rid of a problem poorly substitutes for getting to a solution. Research suggests that abortions due to disability or deformity increase the degree of post-abortion grief and guilt. Allowing physician-assisted suicide imposes a societal expectation that pressures persons with disabilities, terminal diagnoses, or depression to take their own lives. Which injuries, emotional disorders, or behavior stresses qualify for extermination, and which don't? Would laws limit abortions and assisted suicides only to circumstances of disability? (Spoiler alert: they haven't.) What distinguishes a disability from just another difference? What other differences between individuals would we find unacceptable? Is it only a coincidence that Planned Parenthood arose out of this kind of ideology, called eugenics? Ought we not take caution that this discredited pseudo-science inspired the Holocaust?

A disability may describe a person, but it never defines that person. And God's involvement, love's involvement, redefines and redeems both disability and humanity. It likely will not grant us all the answers we seek, but His Gospel of forgiveness and resurrection in Jesus Christ offers the answer we need—the answer to disability, to disease, to discomfort of all kinds, and to death itself. In His hand every unknown opens space for hope. Miracles only fit where men fail.

Ask not, “What if there's a disability?” Ask instead, “So what if there's a disability?”

**“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)**

**“But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are ...” (1 Corinthians 1:27-28)**

**“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.” (2 Corinthians 4:7-10)**



### Living with Disability at Church

by Mona Fuerstenau

Life with disability in the family is about the same things any and every person longs for—a place to belong. It is about the same things any and every family yearns for—sanctuary, unconditional love, and unwavering support. The details may look very different, but the important things are really not as different as you might think. Most often it just takes much more effort for the family living with disability to find or develop.

Congregations can become that place of belonging:

- **The parish nurse** who has received training about supporting families with disabilities
- **The pastor** who sees the person with disability as an important member of the body of Christ, who sees them made in the image of God
- **The children's program director** who sees the needs of siblings too, as siblings of people with disabilities often struggle to be seen
- **The youth leader** who approaches the teen with disability and talks to them directly, asking if there is anything needed for safety, and including them without hesitation—the same welcome any teen would desire
- **Congregation members** who welcome and include and invite into their home or activities regularly, with the express purpose of giving a gift of time and relationship

Unfortunately, families living with disabilities do not always have good things to report. Research data of 400 families who have children with disabilities say they often do not attend church, though they would like to, due to negative experiences. Similar research of 200 teens, both with and without disabilities, indicates that their faith life is important to them, but significantly fewer of those with disabilities actually participate regularly due to negative experiences. Some of this research by Dr. Erik Carter of Vanderbilt has been put into a *Practical Guide for Congregations*, and a link is included at the end of this article.

Friends, we can do better. The Church can do better. God calls us into relationship, valuing each member of the *Body of Christ* for the role it is designed to play. 1 Corinthians 12:22 says that **“the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable.”** Note it says “seem to be” weaker, not “are” weaker. It also says they are needed and necessary. They have a vital role in the Body of Christ. Without them the church is incomplete. So what can be done as a congregation to intentionally support a family living with disability?

- **Be Sanctuary:** By definition, a safe space both physically and attitudinally. Be welcoming and ask what you need to know. Ask questions rather than making assumptions.



- **Be Authentic:** If you don't know what to say, be honest and say that. If you don't know what to do, be honest and say that. If you are worried you might offend, be honest and say that.
- **Be Relational:** Get to know each person in the family. They are so much more than "just" a family with a disability. Each person has gifts and talents and interests completely unrelated to disability. They have shared interests with others in the congregation. Fellowship is an important part of congregational life, and it stems from these things. Being known for who we are is a powerful statement of and witness to belonging.
- **Be Purposeful:** Meaningful participation and contribution of all members of the family are necessary. People with disabilities and their families have much to offer the *Body of Christ*, but often the Church sees them as needy—as a mercy ministry—not as valued contributing members. Look for ways for each of them to serve, including the person with disability.

For more information and free resources visit our website ([www.BethesdaLC.org](http://www.BethesdaLC.org)) or email us ([ReligiousLife@BethesdaLC.org](mailto:ReligiousLife@BethesdaLC.org)). Also see "Erik Carter: Practical Guide for Congregations": [vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/vkc/resources/religionspirituality](http://vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/vkc/resources/religionspirituality)

*Mona Fuerstenau is director of ministry partnerships at Bethesda Lutheran Communities; [bethesdalutherancommunities.org](http://bethesdalutherancommunities.org).*



### Caring for the Caregiver

by Lynette Auch, President of Lutherans For Life

Jeff and Melissa didn't exactly expect the change that became their new way of life, but they graciously accepted it as they love and respect God's gift of life and see all human life as precious, no matter one's age or abilities.

Jeff, a retired pastor, and Melissa, a former occupational therapy assistant, completely changed their lives and careers to move and provide continuous care for Melissa's aging father, who was living with dementia and congestive heart failure.

Jeff and Melissa are not alone. Approximately 43.5 million caregivers have provided unpaid care to an adult or child in the last 12 months (*Source: National Alliance for Caregiving, AARP, 2015*). About 15.7 million adult family caregivers care for someone who has Alzheimer's disease or other dementia (*Alzheimer's Association, 2015*).

Luke 10:27-35 includes Jesus' teaching of the second greatest commandment, **"Love your neighbor as yourself."** He goes on to explain "who" is our neighbor in the well-known parable of the Good Samaritan. Family caregivers could be considered modern-day Good Samaritans as they often, lovingly and sacrificially, provide the most basic of needs to their family member.

Whether it is a child or youth with special healthcare needs or an adult with a disability or chronic debilitating condition, living with and caring for this loved one can be a huge responsibility. From basic daily activities (i.e., bathing, feeding, dressing, toileting), to care management, monitoring their condition, advocating on their behalf, performing therapies and treatments, and administering medicine and medical care, family caregivers provide invaluable and often life-sustaining services which may not be recognized and which are often overlooked.

Family caregivers are usually unpaid and often the sole caregiver for that family member (and sometimes even to other family members at the same time). Caregivers may have many stressors: physical and emotional strain, financial issues, lack of social support and loss of relationships, marriage strain, and feelings of loss and grief for what they dreamed their life and future would be like.



Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

One frustration for Melissa is isolation from the world. Melissa, a full-time caregiver, is on constant alert, 24 hours a day, seven days a week; she cannot just pick up and leave everything behind to have coffee with a friend or participate in a group function unless she has someone to watch over her father for a few hours. Another sometimes overwhelming frustration for Melissa, even though she worked in the medical field of occupational therapy, is navigating the medical world.

As my own family has experienced with several loved ones, caregiving can be tremendously exhausting—physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Aside from the job being exhausting, the health and wellbeing of the family caregiver impacts how they provide care; therefore, the whole family can suffer if precautions are not taken to provide respite care. Respite care provides care for the family member by someone else, allowing the caregiver time away from their loved one to care for themselves and their own needs.

Despite Jeff and Melissa's frustrations and losses, there have been blessings. In the past, Melissa and her father have struggled in their relationship with each other. Through this opportunity to care for him, Melissa has come to understand her father more as a person and has been able to develop a sense of peace about her relationship with her father. As Scripture has taught her, Melissa believes her father is her "neighbor," and she finds Christian joy in knowing that she can decrease her father's anxiety, confusion, and fears of abandonment by being his caregiver.

Melissa believes there is value in honoring lives by caring for them, especially with the current world view that does not value enduring the trial of aging and suffering. There is also value in the journey for the caregiver as one walks through the trials of bearing another's burdens.

**"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).**

Caring for the caregiver is just one more way that we as life-affirming Christians can be the hands and feet of Jesus and serve others as Christ has sacrificially served us.

*Dear Heavenly Father, open our eyes to see the needs of these special people that we call caregivers. Help us be a servant to the servant. Let us be as Christ to others. Amen.*

**Take my will and make it Thine;  
It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.**

*(LSB 783 - Text: Public domain)*

**Note: Since the writing of this article,  
Melissa's father was called to his  
eternal home.**





### Families Belong Together!

by Pastor Michael Salemink

**Families belong together!** Immigrants (refugees?) sometimes attempt unapproved entry into our country. Our laws grant each one due process to clarify their crime and their claims. When they bring little ones along, certain regulations have forbidden housing the children with the adults. These arrangements make sense, but we ought not take lightly the separation of the young from parents. So protestors have recently raised the rallying cry against the detentions: Families belong together!

Christians can affirm this assertion. Families do indeed belong together. Both nature and Scripture establish it as truth. Our Almighty Maker and Heavenly Father has put husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, sisters and brothers together. What He has joined, no one may rend. Only when it alleviates immediate and extreme danger should we entertain removing one from another, and then only until the risk resolves.

**Families belong together.** So no more adultery. No more fornication. No more affairs. No more lustful fantasizing. No more pornography. No more perversions. No more sending nude selfies or lewd texts. No more enslaving ourselves to animalistic appetites. No more disconnecting sexuality from marriage and procreation. Let's instead exercise this blessing in exclusive service to our God-given spouse.



**"But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments." (Psalm 103:17-18)**

**Families belong together.** So no more freezing embryos. No more leaving them in laboratory storage indefinitely. No more manufacturing them by the handfuls. No more pulling them apart to procure their stem cells. No more genetically engineering them in the name of scientific advancement. No more declaring them “excess” and dispatching them for experimentation. Let’s instead receive every child as a precious treasure and a special privilege.

**Families belong together.** So no more “no-fault” divorces. No more relaxing restrictions against broken homes. No more dissolving wedding bonds simply upon demand. No more cheapening nuptial promises by permitting abandonment of them at will and without good reason. No more cohabitation without matrimony. No more forsaking society’s responsibility to support and safeguard these sacred commitments when they get threatened or weakened. Let’s instead strengthen and defend every one-flesh union.

**Families belong together.** So no more physician-assisted suicides. No more letting loved ones feel like burdens or better off dead because of their age or their ailments. No more enabling them to put themselves out of our misery. No more lazy “love” that lives and lets die. No more keeping ourselves aloof and indifferent to the suffering of others. Let’s instead marshal all the resources of community to accompany one another in addressing affliction.

**Families belong together.** So no more abortions. No more killing children for convenience. No more prioritizing our liberties over their rights. No more appealing to privacy or poverty or adversity or public opinion. No more staying oblivious about which contraceptives cause miscarriages. No more forsaking panicked hearts to deal with their surprise pregnancies alone. Let’s instead advocate and intervene to celebrate and save every member of the human race.

**Families belong together.** So no more salvation-by-works. No more assessing anyone’s value according to ages or appearances or abilities. No more underestimating the ways God’s grace redeems lost causes and the most hopeless-looking situations. No more acting as if anybody’s history or sinfulness falls outside of His reach and rescue. No more forgetting that His will and His Word, His incarnation and His forgiveness have invested even our existences with everlasting significance. Let’s instead discover and distribute the abundant life in God’s unconditional love.

**Families belong together.** So no more keeping quiet. No more “minding your own business.” No more using “two kingdoms” as an excuse. No more avoiding controversial conversations just because they are difficult. No more sidestepping life issues just because they are “political matters” or “personal decisions.” No more hiding the healing light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ under a basket. No more hoarding for ourselves the abundant promises of God that those close to us so desperately desire. Let’s instead declare the sanctity of life with courage and demonstrate it with compassion.

**Families belong together!**



NEW

## *The Story of Baby Shalom*

*by Marie MacPherson*

*The true record of a woman pouring out her heart  
in the presence of God as she experienced  
the death of a child in her womb*



## **The Story of Baby Shalom** by Marie MacPherson

"This is the true record of a woman pouring her heart out in the presence of God as she experienced the death of a child in her womb.

"We offer it here with the hope of bringing comfort and encouragement to others who may find themselves struggling in similar circumstances (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). Shalom means 'peace' and, despite the emotional challenges portrayed, this story ends with the mother of Baby Shalom resting in God's peace.

"May it be so also for you, dear reader, no matter what tragedies befall you."

**Item LFL910B. \$2.00 ea.**

**Give thanks to the Lord, for  
he is good, for his steadfast  
love endures forever.**

**Give thanks to the God of  
gods, for his steadfast love  
endures forever.**

**Give thanks to the Lord of  
lords, for his steadfast love  
endures forever ...**

**Psalm 136:1-3**

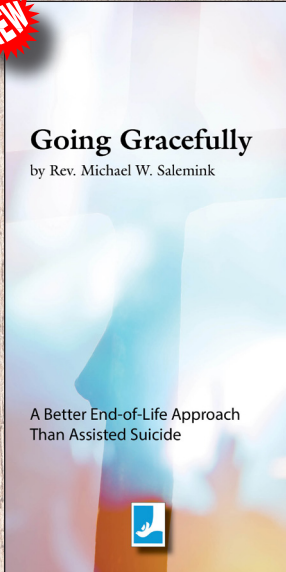


## Going Gracefully - A Better End-of-Life Approach Than Assisted Suicide

Rev. Michael W. Salemink presents a better end-of-life approach than assisted suicide. Rev. Salemink looks at the issues of autonomy, pain, quality of life, and death with dignity (what it is, why it's bad, and what is better").

Also included are "Eight Things You Should Know About Assisted Suicide" and "Sixteen Things You Can Do About Assisted Suicide."

Item LFL811T. \$0.50 ea.



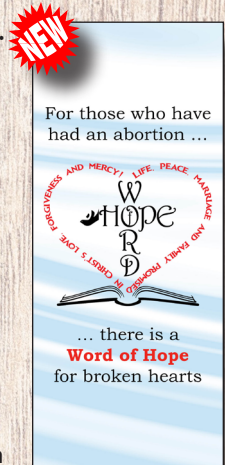
## Word of Hope brochure

Abortion. It's so painful. It's an experience that goes beyond our physical and emotional being. It penetrates deep into the heart of our spiritual life. The pain just doesn't go away. This brochure offers information on LFL's Word of Hope post-abortion ministry, which offers confidential post-abortion referral, counseling, and reconciliation.

Item LFL404T. **FREE**

**Check out our new Word of Hope website! If you are in a crisis situation, have had an abortion, are pregnant right now, or have been hurt by someone, here you will find hope. Word of Hope:**

**888.217.8679; [info@word-of-hope.org](mailto:info@word-of-hope.org)  
[www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)**



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

- [www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife](http://www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife)
- <https://twitter.com/ForLifers>
- [www.instagram.com/lfly4life](http://www.instagram.com/lfly4life)



### Also see:

- [www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife](http://www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife)
- <https://vimeo.com/user4132928>



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

## 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](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-thoughts-in-the-church).

**October 7 – Pentecost XX (Proper 22B)** – Marriage and sexuality and procreation belong together: “the two shall become one flesh” (Mark 10:8a). God did not make us male and female for gratifying our own desires. He designed us to embody and delight in communion like He does. Dividing one gift from the others results in death. Receiving and respecting them as His sacred blessings can overcome the failings we bring into them. *Almighty Maker, cultivate in us a love that reflects Your own. Amen.*

**October 14 – Pentecost XXI (Proper 23B)** – God’s favor teaches us to number our days as gifts from Him (Psalm 90:12). He lovingly fixes the times and manners of our living and dying. This wisdom relieves us of worry about “quality of life” or “death with dignity.” Jesus Christ’s resurrection means we need neither cut deals with death nor run in fear from it. When afflictions and evils befall our bodies, we may still rest and rejoice in His glorious power. *Lord God, let anxious hearts dwell secure in You throughout all generations. Amen.*

**October 21 – Pentecost XXII (Proper 24B)** – Our rights can’t acquire heaven. Our choices won’t achieve any salvation for us. “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God” (Mark 10:27). If our Savior’s words can gather us into the everlasting kingdom, how will His ways not also resolve and redeem all our hopeless circumstances, like terminal diagnoses or surprise pregnancies? *Heavenly Father, give us faith that seeks life wherever You have sown it. Amen.*

**October 28 – St. Simon & St. Jude** – If our life-affirming message meets with opposition, that doesn’t mean we’ve gotten it wrong. It ought not frighten us into silence but rather encourage us to persist. The fallen world and sinful flesh persecuted the prophets (Jeremiah 26:7-11), the apostles, the reformers, and even Jesus. He Himself has privileged us to minister His own truth and love (John 15:19). Humankind beholds in us the One they cannot overcome, Him who overhauls them! *Compassionate Master, strengthen and sustain us in Your Gospel labor. Amen.*

**November 4 – Pentecost XXIV (Proper 26B)** – We get to love God not only in spirit but in the person of our neighbors (Mark 12:33). The same blood that makes Him our brother and us His children (Hebrews 9:12) also makes those around us into treasures and privileges. In protecting and providing for the least of these—uncertain parents, unresponsive patients, unborn embryos—the Kingdom Himself will never be far from us. *Incarnate God, draw us into Your humility that our race be raised up. Amen.*

**November 11 – Pentecost XXV (Proper 27B)** – “Put not your trust in princes” (Psalm 146:3a). Neither stake yourself upon congresses or courts or physicians or popular opinions. None of these delays even their own death and only hastens the demise of others. Turn away from their life-shortening ways and take refuge instead in the God who made the universe. He who formed your body watches over the hopeless. He lifts up the lowly and saves life still. *Lord Jesus, deliver into abundant and everlasting life all who cry out in desperation. Amen.*





**November 18 – Pentecost XXVI (Proper 28B)** – Fathers consign their children to abortions (Mark 13:12). Children encourage their parents toward physician-assisted suicide. The latter days have come upon us. Let us hearten each other with the promise of resurrection, even for terminal illnesses, and with the assurance of forgiveness, even for violence against life (Hebrews 10:12). Let us confidently confess this hope in the face of crisis and panic, for the Holy Spirit Himself speaks new and eternal life in us (Mark 13:11)! *Heavenly Defender, loose our tongues to declare Your purposes. Amen.*

**November 25 – Last Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 29B)** – Incurable conditions can feel like the floods lifting their roar (Psalm 93:3). Complicated pregnancies can thunder. We get to remind sufferers how our Lord reigns over them, and He reigns in them. His blood frees us from our sins (Revelation 1:5). If even our guilt cannot hold back His angels from gathering His elect (Mark 13:27), then neither can any age, appearance, or ability limitations stand in the way. *Faithful God, let nothing in us obstruct any eye from beholding Your glory. Amen.*

**December 2 – Advent I** – Advent brings the gift of anticipating: “none who wait for . . . [the Lord] shall be put to shame” (Psalm 25:3). A surprise pregnancy likewise invites patient faith instead of using death as a solution to difficulty. So does struggling with infertility or enduring permanent disability. Our Father’s salvation comes, not sluggish but steadfast (Psalm 25:10). Life is His promise, and He will move heaven and earth to fulfill it (Jeremiah 33:14). *Son of David, our coming King, establish us in hope. Amen.*

**December 9 – Advent II** – The Gospel of God’s grace awakens us to approve what is excellent (Philippians 1:10). Is facilitating a suicide “excellent”? Is experimenting on embryos a “fruit of righteousness”? Is advocating for abortion access “pure and blameless”? These involve ending a life that began by the holy work of God. And even when we cannot foresee how, He will bring it to completion, as sure as Jesus finished His mission, as sure as we ourselves exist. *Gracious Savior, fill our hearts and throats with Your glory and praise. Amen.*

**December 16 – Advent III** – The sinful world condemns unborn children and elderly persons because of inadequate age or unacceptable appearance or impaired abilities. The Lord clears away these enemies (Zephaniah 3:15) with His unconditional love. Law and conscience convict us of promoting and even participating in violence against life. The Lord also takes away these judgments with His forgiveness and redemption. *Prince of Peace, make us not offended by Your Word of life. Amen.*

**December 23 – Advent IV** – Mary’s visitation to Elizabeth (Luke 1:44) provides proof that unborn ones have life in the womb. This joyful Gospel also proclaims that human beings have utmost value even before birth. Micah’s oracle (Micah 5:2) likewise confirms that the Lord loves little ones, and Hebrews 10:10 explains that the infant Immanuel consecrates us all so sacred and special to God. *Messiah of Bethlehem, move us to embrace the least of these in Your tenderness. Amen.*

**December 30 – Christmas I** – Simeon had to wait for the consolation of Israel (Luke 2:25). No doubt his unfulfilled longings robbed him of dignity in the eyes of observers. But his extended approach toward death gave uplifting witness to the Lord’s relentless faithfulness. Equipped with this greater dignity, Simeon offered even his sufferings as sacrifice to serve the Lord’s will and the wellbeing of others. As we also die with Christ, He dignifies our deaths as well. *Ancient of Days, we commend our lives and our deaths into Your hands. Amen.*





**On May 25, voters in Ireland approved an historic referendum (66.4% to 33.6%) to overturn the Constitution's pro-life Eighth Amendment that had been in place for 35 years ...** Draft legislation will be formalized ... according to the country's health minister. It allows abortion terminations within the first

12 weeks of pregnancy—and up to 24 weeks in cases involving the mother's life, risks to a mother's physical or mental health, or fetal abnormality. Since the insertion of the Eighth Amendment into the Irish Constitution in 1983, six referendums have grappled with the issue of abortion ... with a new article stating that “provision may be made by law for the regulation of termination of pregnancy.” (*National Review*, 5/29/18; *CLR LifeNews*, 6/1/18) To learn about what happened in Ireland go to [thefederalist.com/2018/07/27/ireland-voted-make-abortion-legal-heres-happened](http://thefederalist.com/2018/07/27/ireland-voted-make-abortion-legal-heres-happened).

**On July 26, 13,285 pairs of baby booties were displayed outside the Parliament of New Zealand as a public memorial of the 13,285 lives lost to abortion in 2017.** The display was organized by Voice for Life New Zealand, and used booties knitted by thousands of people from all over the country. Each knitted pair of baby booties “symbolizes little human boys and girls who are vulnerable and need love and protection.” Voice for Life National President Jacqui DeRuiter said they put out the booties to show Parliament and the public “a representation of all these little lives that didn't get a chance to live.” Ms. DeRuiter said although they were outnumbered by counter-protesters, support was shown by the thousands of New Zealanders who had joined together to knit the booties. “We are here to speak for the unborn, to show Parliament that we do not need more liberal abortion laws,” she said.” Is this not enough? 13,285?” (*SPUC*, 7/26/18)

**Three children were killed by euthanasia in 2016 and 2017 in Belgium, according to a report by the country's federal control and evaluation committee.** Belgium legalized euthanasia for minors in 2014—the only country in the world to have done so for children of all ages (although there is evidence of doctors intervening in the deaths of disabled babies in both Belgium and the Netherlands) ... The committee also reports that the number of euthanasia cases rose by 13% from 2016 to 2017. In the majority of cases, the increase was accounted for by patients aged between 60 and 89 years old who were suffering from “polypathology – a combination of different illnesses, such as blindness, hearing loss and incontinence, which together make life for the patient unbearable.” “We are seeing more and more people who no longer accept that condition,” said Professor Distelmans. “In addition, we are getting older and older, so the figures also go up. This is, in fact, the first generation to be confronted with polypathology.” The number of such patients requesting euthanasia has almost doubled in the last four years, from 232 to 444. Cancer remains the primary reason for euthanasia requests. (*SPUC*, 7/20/18)

Abortions Worldwide in 2018

[www.worldometers.info/abortions](http://www.worldometers.info/abortions)

To learn about the international outreach of Lutherans For Life, go to [www.lutheransforlife.org/about/international](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/about/international).

## Share the Life Message All through the Year!

**Lutherans For Life** offers several easy ways to keep the life message before your congregation! Go to [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org) (MEDIA tab).

- **LifeDate:** Order **LifeDate** in bulk quantities at no charge. (Donations for shipping cost will gladly be accepted.) Call 888.364.LIFE (5433).
- **Life News:** Download **Life News**, our monthly bulletin insert with life-issue news and more!
- **Life Notes:** Sign up for **Life Notes**, our weekly email update.
- **Life Quotes/Life Thoughts:** Share **Life Quotes** and **Life Thoughts in the Church Year** in weekly congregational bulletins (or monthly newsletters).

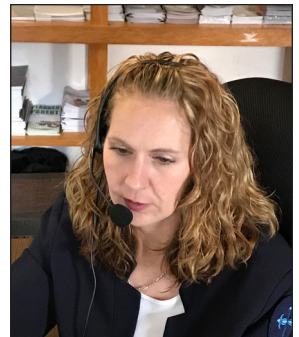
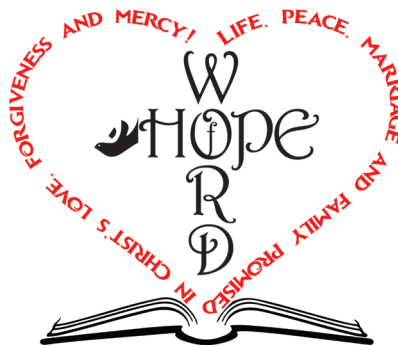
## Check Out “Life on the Web” on our Life Blog



[www.lutheransforlife.org/life-blog](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/life-blog)

## For Those Who Have Had an Abortion, a Word of Hope

We all have grieved the loss of someone at some point in our lives ... But those who have lost a child because they had an abortion, or were part of an abortion decision, often



do not allow themselves to grieve or don't know how to grieve.

888-217-8679 or [info@word-of-hope.org](mailto:info@word-of-hope.org) • [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)

**Since 1973: 60,069,971 abortions in America**

Source: [www.lifenews.com/2018/01/18/60069971-abortions-in-america-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973](http://www.lifenews.com/2018/01/18/60069971-abortions-in-america-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973)

## **For Life Along the Root River**

By Virginia J. Flo, LFL Regional Director of Minnesota

**Y**ou “have been borne by me from before your birth, carried from the womb; even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save” (Isaiah 46:3b-4).

If you are traveling in southern Minnesota just southeast of Rochester near the towns of Wykoff and Spring Valley, you are likely to see the Root River. It’s in this picturesque locale that the Root River Life Chapter had its beginnings in 1987. Helen Keyes, its founder, had worked in the life arena for several years prior. She wanted to continue her life-affirming work in connection with her Lutheran heritage, so it became natural to organize an LFL Life Chapter. It began at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Wykoff.

Helen’s husband, Donald, served as treasurer for many years. The Keyeses often hosted chapter meetings in their home until 2018 when they retired from the Life Chapter at the ages of 93 and 97. The Lord recently called Donald Keyes to his eternal home in June of this year. It goes without saying that these two champions For Life made supporting the sanctity of life their personal life’s mission.

I had the pleasure of being in southern Minnesota a few months back and attending the Root River Life Chapter meeting being held in Spring Valley at the home of Fred and Dorothy Mundfrom. Dorothy (83) serves as the current secretary, and Fred (89) is a former president of the group. It was an inspirational experience for me as I listened to this small but enthusiastic group talk about their upcoming events and previous life-affirming work they have sponsored. They spoke affectionately of Helen and Donald Keyes and the example they had set for them. I was also fortunate to meet Donna Erdman, who, at the age of 91, is still active in coming up with new ways to serve the Lord as a team and keeps their activities in the local newspaper as a witness to the community.

The Root River Life Chapter has hosted numerous events in their 31 years, including marching in various parades in their local communities, manning booths at local fairs, attending national gatherings, sponsoring baked goods and rummage sales (with the help of St. John’s members), and collecting baby items from Mother’s Day through Father’s Day for the pregnancy center in Rochester—just to name a few.

**I was surprised to find that their current president, Collin Hofschulte, took on the position in 2015 when he was merely 15 years old. He is passionate to serve the Lord and promote the sanctity of human life. His mother, Susan Hofschulte (60), a daycare provider, is also a member and provides the final blend of ages that makes up this inspirational group. Collin, who is currently 18, is a true example of the life-affirming youth of today.**

As part of a college-in-school political science class, Collin was required to pick a major court case to debate. He chose *Roe v Wade*. His professor was an extreme liberal, so Collin was apprehensive, yet took on the project with confidence. He wasn’t



allowed to show descriptive pictures, so he chose to bring along a 12-week-old fetal model. During the debate, he managed to get his opponent to admit abortion is actually murder, which astonished the entire class. In his closing statement, he invited anyone claiming to still be pro-choice to come forward and slam a book on the fetal model to destroy it, like a real abortion would. Only two boys came forward. The first one dropped a book on the model, not destroying it. The second picked up the fetal model and said, "This is not the topic of the debate," insisting the issue is a woman's choice issue rather than a fetus. In the end, Collin received many congratulatory statements from classmates, affirming he made a convincing and truthful argument. His professor said he made a powerful closing statement and gave him a 4.0 grade for the class. The Lord was clearly working to help Collin that day.

This fall, Collin will be entering the Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences – Emergency Medicine Paramedic program. There is no doubt he will be a caring health professional, serving those in need.

Clearly, Collin and the Root River Life Chapter continue to support life. Last year, they gave away fetal models and Life Savers® candies in a local parade. A pro-choice person wrote to the editor in the local paper saying that practice should be banned. A week later, a life-affirming supporter responded, thanking them for the gift and willingness to share their views. Their brave actions have certainly gotten noticed, and we thank them for that.

May the Lord continue to inspire and bless the Root River Life Chapter in south-eastern Minnesota as they share the message of life through their projects and personal witness because, as we know, God loves life!



## Can You Believe This? A Very Shocking Statistic (Part Two)

by John Hawkins, Director of Development

In the last issue of *LifeDate*, I shared that a Pew Research Study had found that 46% of LCMS Lutherans believe that abortion should be legal in all or most circumstances. As to what may have contributed to this discouraging statistic, I said that in many cases either a Gospel-centered, life-affirming stance has **not** been shared with those in the pews (or only very sparingly), or if it has, it's been forgotten or rejected by its members. We also explored in depth the first point.

Now we're going to look at the second point. What are some reasons, despite ongoing and strong pro-life advocacy in the parish, that folks might still identify with the pro-choice half?

One reason is that a lot of church members, even many who believe that life begins at conception, feel they have no right to challenge existing decisions or laws which legalize abortion. This may be because of one or more of the following:

Abortion is seen as a political issue. It is something, therefore, that the church shouldn't be involved in any more than they would other election issues. For example, abortion is seen as being on par with whether Social Security should be privatized.

*(Abortion is a sin and a spiritual issue. It involves the destruction of innocent life. Therefore, as Lutherans we should advocate that it be illegal, take action to oppose its practice, and help those affected by it.)*

Similarly, some Lutherans feel that to oppose abortion is to violate the "wall of separation of church and state." Over the past few decades, this phrase has become engraved in the American psyche like it is part of the Gospels.

*(Despite all this, you won't find these words in the Constitution. Nowhere does it say you can't advocate For Life on religious grounds and to do so would breach a legal "wall." Even if the Constitution so dictated, the Bible tells us that if we had to decide between the two, "We must obey God rather than men" [Peter in Acts 5:29].)*

Also related to this are Lutherans who buy into the argument that while they personally would find getting an abortion abhorrent, they don't feel they have the right to tell their neighbor what to do. "It's their own body, after all, isn't it? Why bother to legislate morality?"



*(But is it really “their own body”? A simple test will show that from the moment of conception the baby has a totally different DNA make-up than the mother. That alone says we’re dealing with a separate human being who, like those already born, deserves the right to live.)*

In the public arena, one more reason Lutherans may be conceding to the other side is cynicism or (more charitably) heavy skepticism. Abortion has been legal for over 40 years, and after all, “you can’t fight city hall”! So, despite having a legal right to do so, why actively oppose abortion because it’ll never be banned or anything close to it?

*(Standing up For Life has made a difference. Abortion rates have been declining for years nationwide. A number of factors figure into this, but certainly advocacy for more restrictive abortion laws and a massive, ongoing, educational offensive by pro-life forces has played no small part in women not having one. An example of the influence of the latter can be found right at LFL where dozens if not hundreds of girls and women have told the ministry that because of something we shared, they decided to have their baby. To God be the glory!)*

Finally, let’s look at one more factor which I think probably figures heavily in this statistic: **Indifference**. Or perhaps a better word: **Apathy**. Webster defines apathy as “1: lack of feeling or emotion: impassiveness or 2: lack of interest or concern.” In short, maybe they’re not sure if it is a baby in the womb or not. But either way, they just don’t care if it’s aborted or not.

Apathy, of course, is not something that was unknown at the time of the apostles. Saint Paul said in Romans 12:9-13:

**“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”**

So where does that leave us when it comes to trying to bring nearly half of our fellow Christians into (or back into) the Christian and Lutheran pro-life camp?

If you are a pastor and your church has been resistant to affirming life, pray for guidance and try again! And, likewise, if you’re a layperson whose church hasn’t shown much interest, try again also. **Please know that LFL and its staff are here to help you with consultation, materials, and much more at [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org) or by contacting us at 888.364.LIFE (5433) or [info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org).**

If your congregation is For Life but you want to do more, please contact LFL and ask about starting a Life Team or Life Chapter (or see if one may be close by).

**Finally, help with the financial side of this ministry. Please send in a gift in the envelope provided or go online. Over 95% of LFL’s operating budget comes from gifts and offerings.** This year, we need \$1.1 million plus. We are very grateful for your support, because along with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, everything we do happens as a direct result of your giving. Many thanks!



*Mark your calendars ...*

2018 Lutherans For Life National  
Conference • St. Louis, Missouri  
October 12-13



# From Age to Age the Same

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

**Online Registration is Open!**

“... I am he,  
and to gray  
hairs I will  
carry you. I  
have made,  
and I will  
bear; I will  
carry and  
will save.”  
Isaiah 46:4

**Immanuel Lutheran Church • 9733 Olive Blvd • Olivette, Missouri 63132**

**Join us in St. Louis!** Our Lord and Savior remains the same from eternity unto eternity through all changes in human history and individual experiences—including our sinfulness;

Human sanctity and dignity are the same—that is, infinite—from the invisible miracle of conception to the moment of natural death, through all states and stages of a person's life; and

Lutherans For Life, celebrating 40 years of being a voice For Life, is still motivated by the same Gospel courage and compassion to speak truth and show love, respecting and protecting every human being as a treasure and privilege from God our Father.

Speakers include:

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

- Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer
- Rev. Dr. Sam Nafzger
- Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb
- Rev. Ed Fehskens III
- Rev. Michael Newman
- Rev. Chris Wheatley
- Laura Davis
- Deaconess Rachel Geraci
- Brian Young
- Rev. Michael Salemink
- Rev. Rory Karg
- Rev. Fredric Hinz
- Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, PsyD
- Lynette Auch
- Dr. Cara Buskmiller
- Rev. Michael Dobler
- Rev. Todd Kollbaum
- Mona Fuerstenau

## Lutherans For Life National Staff Holds Retreat



The entire national staff of Lutherans For Life gathered in June in Ames, Iowa, for an encouraging time of prayer, planning, and fellowship at our annual retreat.



**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](mailto:proliferealestate@yahoo.com) for more information.

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

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*The next March for Life ...*

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2019**

*Lutherans For Life will be there!*

[www.lutheransforlife.org/event/1094694-2019-01-18-march-for-life-2019](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/event/1094694-2019-01-18-march-for-life-2019)

### Living the Dream ... Sharing the Love!

by Virginia J. Flo, LFL Regional Director of Minnesota

In 2015, the first high school LFL National Essay Winner was Rebekah Anderson from St. Paul Park, Minnesota. She shared her essay, "Abortion ... What Can We Do?" Her passion came through as more than just words. At the time she talked of being a missionary. I decided to follow up to see what she is doing today. She is actually living her dream to share her love of Jesus and help save babies. Her story is amazing.

After a few years in a Lutheran school, Rebekah was homeschooled. In the course of her studies, she took Post-secondary Education Options (PSEO) classes through a local college. That became her path to becoming fluent in Spanish, something she used in her first venture into missionary work.

Over the summer of 2015, she went to Costa Rica where she did evangelism in city parks, kids' ministry, and soccer ministry. She also was able to teach in a local school, sharing the Gospel in Spanish. This exposure to cross-cultural ministry was the momentum she needed.

The following summer, Rebekah accepted an opportunity to go to China and teach English to high school students. In China, students are obligated to take a test after high school that helps to determine their future. A lot of the test is in English, creating a desperation to become well versed in order to score high, moving them into higher education rather than lesser jobs. Not allowed to share the Gospel, she was asked to teach the holidays and traditions we celebrate in America. Rebekah chose to share not only Thanksgiving, but also Christmas and Easter, where she was able to share the Gospel as part of the English class.

After being back in the states for a short time, she followed God's calling and went to Guatemala for five months where she worked in the inner city teaching, working with the homeless, and sharing the Gospel with women in an inner city brothel. There she gave these poor, enslaved women the message of hope, helping them to understand their situation wasn't hopeless, even though it seemed that way. Girls in Guatemala are often drawn into the brothels at a young age. Rebekah was only 19, and girls her own age already had two or three children. These women turn their children onto the streets during the day as they roam



From 2015: Ken Ham with Rebekah Anderson, high school winner of the inaugural LFL National Essay Contest sponsored by the LFL Council of Federation Presidents.



Rebekah having lunch with a Chinese student curious to know more about Jesus.



the city, where they oftentimes become involved with gangs or end up pregnant.

All this experience prepared Rebekah for what was to come next. God led her to Kona, Hawaii, where she received extensive training in primary health care. This training was given by doctors who specialize in health care in third world countries. She learned how to deal with malaria, parasites, and other issues common in underprivileged countries. During this training, she spent one month in the Philippines and two months in Papua, New Guinea, serving at free healthcare clinics.

While in the Philippines, she used a fetal doppler to hear a baby's heartbeat on a woman who had lost her previous baby. The woman was so overwhelmed in hearing the baby's heartbeat she went home and brought back her husband to hear it too. When he heard it, he was overcome with emotion, never having heard the life in the womb before. These moments made all the sacrifices worthwhile.

Rebekah is also a certified doula, equipping her to assist women during and after childbirth. As a doula, she is able to work with pregnant mothers, teaching them techniques to reduce pain during natural childbirth, often reducing the length of labor by 25%.

Soon, Rebekah will be taking on her most challenging assignment. She will be going into a place with numerous unreached people groups (UPGs) who have no access to the Gospel, no churches, and no Bibles. Missionaries are illegal. So, going to these places requires going as a "tentmaker" or having a civilian job. She will be scrutinized when entering the country, and there is a great deal of risk and danger in this work. It will be a commitment of at least four to ten years. There will be hard times when she will need to totally rely on the Lord. Rebekah would like to challenge you to ask God to lead you to become involved in God's mission of reaching all people with the hope that comes through Him alone.

If you would like to support Rebekah in her efforts, contact her parents at [lrpraisehim@gmail.com](mailto:lrpraisehim@gmail.com). Her mother told me it is difficult to let Rebekah go, but as her parents, they don't want to stand in the way of the Lord's work. She will be joining a prayer support group for mothers of missionaries. May our prayers lift up Rebekah and the Anderson family as they support Rebekah and her life's mission.



Rebekah examining a child while in the Philippines at a free healthcare clinic.

Coming this Fall ...

Life Sunday 2019  
Resources

FROM AGE TO AGE  
THE SAME ...



Bulletin Inserts  
Bible Study  
Children's Message  
Sunday School Lesson  
Worship Service  
Sermons

Your congregation can observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 20, 2019, or at any time during the year.

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

## Lutherans For Life ...

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

## Lutherans For Life ...

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

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

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

**Equips** local congregations to speak out on life issues in their communities through 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.

## Lutherans For Life ...

Is a **Recognized Service Organization** (RSO) of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Is a **ministry partner** of the North American Lutheran Church.

Is not subsidized by any church body.

Is supported entirely by individual donations and grants.



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

**Our Vision** ... Every Lutheran, both individually and in community, 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 a Gospel-motivated witness to the Church and society on these and other related issues, such as chastity, post-abortion healing, and family living. We will call God's people to compassionate action and foster life-affirming alternatives for those facing difficult situations.

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*Mark your calendars ...*

2018 Lutherans For Life  
National Conference  
St. Louis, Missouri  
October 12-13



**From Age to  
Age the Same**

[www.lutheransforlife.org/conference](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/conference)  
**Online Registration is Open!**

"... I am he, and  
to gray hairs I  
will carry you. I  
have made, and  
I will bear; I  
will carry and  
will save."  
Isaiah 46:4



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