

Lifelines: The Family Issue

February/March/April 2019

God's Design of Family

by Reverend Christopher I. Thoma, Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Hartland, Michigan

When I was asked to write an article on gender roles and their effects on families, at first I thought I'd just take a trip through the Bible's friendly countryside, being sure to stop here and there for visits with the familiar texts. Next I thought I'd stroll into the easy fields of research which prove that children growing up in families where the gender roles are undefined or unfilled are more likely to be depressed, use drugs, do poorly in school, and succumb to a host of other unfortunates. But then I changed my mind.

Well, actually Baltasar Gracián, a Jesuit priest, changed my mind. He penned the notion that a man is wise if he gives careful attention not only to his friends but also to his enemies.¹ Had I written as I'd planned, I would have shared friendly information, things that so many of us already know.

But we need to examine the enemy.

Take a look around. None of us needs to squint to see the adversaries of family and traditional gender roles assembling on the horizon. A steady barrage of enemy fire against these targets has been lighting up the cultural sky for some time, and an armistice is nowhere in the future. The battle continues as the enemy seeks to take more of the field. Consider that we're actually beginning 2019 in an unprecedented way. For the first time in history, major U.S. cities are allowing parents to choose a third gender—gender "X"—on all newborn birth certificates.

The devil knows how we got here, and he has stamina for the long game. And still, his playbook holds strategies we've yet to behold, all aimed at particular fronts we're yet to consider.

We do know that one of his unchanging aims is to attack the Gospel by tearing down its transmission lines. What I

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2-3 – Board Members...Thank You
- 5 – Family: The Image of Life
- 6 – God's Gift of Family by Adoption
- 7 – Speaking up for Family
- 8 – The Gift of Family at the End of Life, Legislative Report
- 9 – LFL Regional Conferences 2019
- 10 – Life Issues Contest
- 11 – What's Happening in Michigan
- 12 – Upcoming Events, Easy Ways to Give
- 13 – Donation Form...Owen's Mission
- 14 – In the Next Issue...Quotes

mean is that he sends troops after the institutions of stability, and two most foundational in this regard are marriage (gender roles) and family.

The devil knows that marriage—the union of one man and one woman—and the family that results from the institution are primary underpinnings for society. They are interconnected conduits for transmitting cultural identity, tradition, and so much more. Martin Luther tipped his hat to this in the Large Catechism when he wrote regarding the Sixth Commandment: "...[God] established [marriage] as the first of all institutions, and he created man and woman differently (as is evident) not for lewdness but to be true to each other, be fruitful, beget children, and support and bring them up to the glory of God... it is a glorious institution and an object of God's serious concern. For it is of the highest importance to him that persons be brought up to serve the world, promote knowledge of God, godly living, and all virtues, and fight against wickedness and the devil."

When the structures of marriage and family come undone, bad things happen and entire societies are affected. *(continued on p.4)*

The mission of LFL is to equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

LFL Vision Statement:

Every Lutheran, both individually and in community, upholding the God-given value of human life and influencing society to do the same.

LFL-MI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Legislative Reporter, & Spiritual Counselor:

Pastor Paul Clark (517) 420-4826

Vice President:

Lauren Schaidt (586) 214-3116

Secretary:

Jennifer Connelly (734) 731-1609

Treasurer:

Earl Iseler (616) 866-8026

Lutheran Schools Outreach:

Chris Schultz (734) 770-7699

Urban Outreach:

Susan Hill (586) 468-7871

Technology Coordinator:

Nathan Beuschel (269) 945-7863

***Lifelines* Newsletter Editor and Life Issues**

Contest Coordinator:

Lauren Schaidt (586) 214-3116

Board Member at Large:

Dorothy Zink (517) 694-7189

Medical Consultant:

Dr Donna Harrison (202) 230-0997

Life Issues Contest Consultants:

Lauren Schaidt (586) 214-3116
(Elementary Essays)

Susan Hill (High School Essays) (586) 468-7871

Jeff Davis (Artistic Projects) (586) 913-5993

Lifelines of Michigan LFL is mailed free of charge to Michigan LFL supporters. Articles may be reprinted with attribution to source.

Email address: lflmi.president@gmail.com

THANK YOU... to all our donors the last two quarters!

James & Ruth Tafel, Alto

Richard & Linda Strausbaugh, Ann Arbor

Virginia Bunchek, Grosse Pointe
In memory of Eunice Heidel

Network For Good

Eldine Parent, Bay City
In memory of Dorothy Oretner & Donald Currey

Rev. Stanley Aubuchon, Flat Rock

Rev. Richard Mundt, Hemlock

Eugene Morabito, Clinton Twp.

Bill & Sherry Burmeister, Lansing
In memory of Fred & Millie Gallert

Bill & Carolyn Burns, Portage

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Washington

Daniel & Linda Sakkinen, Traverse City

Rev. Terry & Shirley Hoese, Grand Rapids

Norman & Diane Long, Grand Rapids

Kathryn Were, Hartland
In honor of granddaughters Clare & Grace Were

Carla Neimeier, Bryon Center

Regan & Karen vanPietersom, Fraser
In honor of the birth of Charlotte Ruth Schrupp

Rev John Monson, Troy

Daniel & Linda Ramthun, Dearborn

Rev Timothy & Betty Loewe, Temperance

(continued on p.3)

Help Us Update Our Records!

Please send any new address, phone number, or email to us at:

schaidtl@gmail.com or (586)214-3116

Thank you!

(continued from p.2)

Elvera Bluemlein, Saginaw

John Boldt, Monroe

Kevin & Dianne Stresman, Vassar
In honor of Sophie & Axel Peters

Leslie & Nileen Nemeth, Otisville
In memory of Coral Reidt

Dawn Ohlendorf, Saginaw
In memory of the 25th Heaven Anniversary of Kathleen Dykwell

Mark & Janice Hough, Kalamazoo
In memory of Ethel Kocman

Gordon & Sandra Carr, Utica

Joseph and Ruth Pasman, Caledonia

Robert & Donna Rahn, Macomb

Rev. Paul & Elizabeth Clark, Fowler
In Memory of Dennis Iseler

Lutherans For Life, Nevada, Iowa

Rev. Timothy & Betty Loewe, Temperance
In honor of family

Priscilla Lohrengel, Beverly Hills

Donald & Linda Finkel, Port Hope
In memory of Dennis Iseler

Earl & Jo Anne Iseler, Rockford
In memory of our son Dennis Iseler

William W. Schultz, Traverse City

Natalie Beyer, Bay City

Pastor Terry & Shirley Hoese, Grand Rapids
In memory of Dennis Iseler

Sandra L Beens, Troy

Harold & Esther Bergdolt, Frankenmuth

Norman & Diane Long, Grand Rapids

George Schneider, Cedar

Richard Sager, Jonesville

Miriam Bunge, Monroe
In honor of Bonnie Kregel

Martha Huber, Frankenmuth
In memory of Matthew Marzluft

Carol Gulliver, Niles

Boyd & Pauline Terry, Vassar
In memory of Dorothy Weber

Michael Schmerda, Warren

Jeffery & Jean Rider, Belleville

John & Nena Hernandez, Holt

Ronald & Sandra Schultz, Westland

Robert & Deborah Kasper, Ypsilanti
In memory of Elizabeth Kasper

Mark & Janice Hough, Kalamazoo

Emil & Linda Hecksel, Coopersville

Marion Meilaender, Marshall

St. Paul's Lutheran Ladies Guild, Milan

Larry Schmalz, St. Clair Shores

BRONNER'S CHRISTmas WONDERLAND, Frankenmuth

Albert & Evelyn Caspers, Bay City
In memory of their son Gary (12/19/16)

Chris & Gwynn Oberly, Macomb

Marajean Block, Lambertsville

Rev. Albert & Lodie Bahr, Unionville

Joanne Von Werder, Lansing

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chesterfield

Matthew Sternemann, Lansing

Delphine Mallinson, Rochester Hills
In memory of Shirley Neinas

Denny & Judi Williams, Lansing
In memory of George & Lorine Williams & Eric Pollock

David & Cindy Schafer, Carleton
In honor of Virginia Schulz

Dennis & Eileen Tischler, Whitehall

Bill & Sue Sisk, Monroe

St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Marine City

(continued from front page)

But again, we must examine the enemy. Here we are in 2019, and the sociological experts, folks like L.S. Oláh, have settled on the fact that “the family can no longer be described simply as a set of well-defined roles; it is negotiated on a daily basis, constructed by interactions between partners at the micro-level, and influenced by macro structures of the political and economic spheres.”²

It is now accepted that the average postmodern family is a free-floating organism with little definable contour. Its center of gravity changes from day to day. It spins on an axis of subjectivism and provides no stability for passing along objective truths to anyone beyond its own orbit. It has traded “husband” and “wife,” “father” and “mother” for partnerships, no matter the gender combination. It has exchanged the influence of long-standing moral and spiritual communities for the promises of the sinful flesh.

Would it then surprise you that attendance is in steep decline in most churches? Would it shock you that more and more families choose Sunday morning sporting activities over time together in worship? And as the pews continue to thin, the dwindling faithful are left to fight for financial survival, and perhaps worse, are now finding themselves in court fighting for the right to preach and teach the truths most postmodern families have no interest in defending anyway. In the wake of this, the enemy’s campaign gains momentum. The Word of God is labeled as hate speech and sermons are subpoenaed by local authorities to prevent offending the LGBTQ community. Christian teachers are suspended for accidentally using the wrong gender pronouns. Last year, I helped write a document that ultimately landed before the British Parliament. It was in defense of Gordon Larmour, a pastor in Ayrshire, England who was charged with “aggravated prejudice related to sexual orientation” and jailed for sharing the account of Adam and Eve with a 19-year-old gay man who asked him about God’s view of homosexuality.

These are just a few scenes depicting the enemy, and yet they all reveal his plan to confuse genders and dissolve traditional family.

So what do we do?

First, go to church. Be immersed in God’s Word and its preaching. Receive the gifts of forgiveness given by Christ for repairing your own wrecked families and for re-establishing an acceptance of God’s holy will even as the world implies its disagreeability.

Next, acknowledge friends, but also get serious about the enemy. Learn never to say, “That’ll never happen.” Become familiar with current events. Keep attuned to current legislation. Know what’s going on around you.

Third, pray for the Holy Spirit to grant you the courage to speak up when the challenges come. Because they will.

And perhaps lastly—trusting Christ’s promise that the gates of hell will never prevail against the Gospel—don’t feel as though you need to lead the charge into anything. Jesus is always out in front on this. If you’re not feeling up to carrying the banner before the troops, He’ll surely raise up men and women who will. In the meantime, be faithful. Get in the trenches and fight where and when you can. Lend your voice. Write letters to your representatives. Be present and speak at the local school board meetings. Call into the local radio station and weigh in on these things. Run for office!

In the end, no matter where you find yourself in all of this, seize the opportunity to speak the truth in love. God will bless your efforts to His glory and the benefit of His world. That’s His promise.

¹ Baltasar Gracián, *The Art of Worldly Wisdom* (Scotts Valley, California: CreateSpace Independent Publishing, 2017), 49.

² L.S. Oláh, “The New Roles of Men and Women and Implications for Families and Societies,” *Families and Societies Working Papers Series, Volume 11, 2014, 2.*

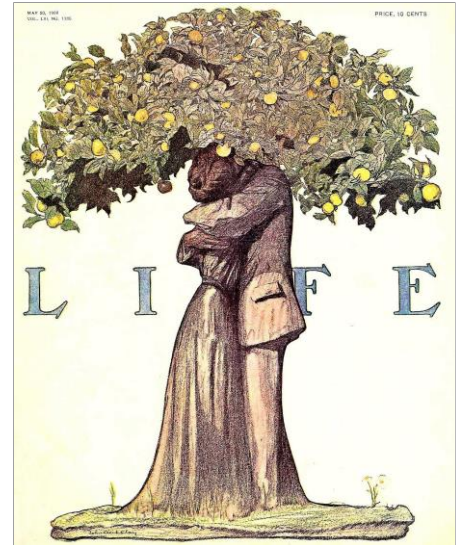
Family: The Image of Life

by Reverend Scott E. Benjamin, St. Luke Lutheran Church and School, Clinton Township, MI

A stained-glass window, a masterful painting, a snow-capped mountain range, a grandmother rocking a baby. All these images provide meaning, but more importantly they provoke meaning in every individual. They relentlessly call us to ponder the meaning of life. This is the challenge of mankind: to notice and to ponder meaning. It is when we distort and pervert the images that we are unable to search out the One in whose image we are created, and we busy ourselves with trivial imitations.

Nowhere is this more evident than when we consider the family. Some will simply see the family as a social contract that may be constructed in any arrangement: one parent, two parents, four parents in the case of remarriage or even substituting government agencies such as state schools to “parent” children.

There are numerous images which proclaim God as the Creator and Sustainer of the family. Look at this image of a husband and wife embracing as a tree (*The Tree of Life* by John Cecil Clay). The image presents the deep roots that go back to grandparents, great grandparents, all the way to our first parents, Adam and Eve. The strong trunk is the husband and wife bound together to become one, supporting the branches and leaves which will bear fruit. No human can construct a tree. It requires a Creator, Who designs the very idea of a tree, gives life to the tree, and nourishes that life with water and sunlight.



But if you take away the notion of God: the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sanctifier, as the One Who designed the family, liberates each member through forgiveness, and provides the very call to be family, then there is no basis for which to sustain the family. We are left with no other explanation for the design and purpose of family than one’s desires in the moment, regardless of how they align with God’s design and how fleeting they may be. The message is abundantly clear: the purpose of “rights” of marriage and reproduction is solely to defy the Creator and the image in which we were created! Thus, these so-called rights are used as the reason to deny God’s design of man and woman, and even God’s plan for us to live self-sacrificing lives in a family. However, without God as the basis, there is no fundamental meaning to their demand for these rights. There are no constant factors—or images—which never change.

The true meaning of the family will never pass away, because it is rooted in God’s will that we be in a constant relationship with Him and bear the fruit of being in relationship with others. Certainly, there are various situations which may change the form of an individual family, but God’s ideal design of one father, one mother, and their children remains constant.

Family is not just rooted in the generations before us. It is rooted and nurtured in God. This meaning shapes our lives and gives us purpose. Ponder the image of the tree here presented and let it lead you to a deeper understanding of life with God.

God's Gift of Family by Adoption

Ten Blessings of Adopting

by Reverend Michael W. Salemink, Executive Director, Lutherans For Life

(originally published August 11, 2017, from <https://www.lutheransforlife.org/article/ten-blessings-of-adopting/>)

“God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:4-5).

God adopts. The Gospel is about adoption. Salvation's story can't be told apart from adoption. Christianity can't happen without it. The Old Testament features an adopted leading man. Pharaoh's daughter adopting Moses leads to the Hebrews ending up liberated. The New Testament also stars an adopted hero. Joseph adopting Jesus sets in motion sinners getting forgiven. Father Almighty offers His Son and adopts human beings for us to have a faith relationship with the Lord God and the hope of resurrection to everlasting life in His heavenly kingdom.

No wonder early Christians opened the world's first orphanages. Psalm 68:5-6 proclaims God **“Father of the fatherless and protector of widows. God settles the solitary in a home.”** James 1:27 NIV describes **“look[ing] after orphans and widows in their distress”** as **“[r]eligion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless.”** Articles in this issue of *LifeDate* emphasize adoption's importance. The blessings of adopting are plentiful:

- Adopting embodies God's own self-sacrificial love and unconditional grace. He chooses for His own those who once did not belong.
- Adopting rescues a child in need into a forever home and a better life (and sometimes also provides relief to the family of origin).
- Adopting bestows the treasures and joys of a son/daughter (and sibling, grandchild, cousin, etc.) upon the receiving family: **“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. ... Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!”** (Psalm 127:3, 5).
- Adopting enriches families even when not facing infertility and alongside their biological childbearing.
- Adopting helps heal the hurts of a child feeling (often repeatedly) abandoned.
- Adopting extends also to children older than infants (and not only as an alternative to abortion!). Many orphaned or fostered teenagers still want to become part of your household.
- Adopting forges the deep and strong bonds of facing difficult challenges together.
- Adopting connects hearts across cultures, ethnicities, and nationalities and forms unions from around the world.
- Adopting enlists whole communities (especially congregations!) in support, cooperation, and fellowship.
- Adopting speaks and shows the boundless preciousness of every human life—created, redeemed, and wanted forever by the Lord Himself!

Speaking Up for Family

by Reverend Paul Clark, President, Lutherans For Life of Michigan

**For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.**

Isaiah 62:1

Many people today wish that Christians would keep silent. Silent about their faith, silent about their position on abortion, or gay marriage, or any other moral or social issue. *Unless of course*, their opinion happens to be in line with the politically-correct, culturally-defined position of the day! Then, and *only then*, apparently, would it be okay to speak.

But the above text from *Isaiah 62* reminds us that the Lord God Himself is not silent about sin and righteousness, but always speaks the **truth**. That truth may be hard to hear. It may hurt. It may provoke sinners such as us to anger and defiance, as we try to justify our sin and our lifestyle choices. But God speaks. The Word is clear. He will not be silenced.

So must we speak, for we are His people, His heralds, His ambassadors. We speak, and we speak in terms of Law and Gospel. There *is* evil in the world. There *are* commandments which cannot be altered or discarded. One of them is **"You shall not murder."** Abortion is murder. Abortion is wrong. Abortion is breaking God's commandment to protect innocent life.

Do we stay silent? Can we be silent? We cannot. When the Church does not speak clearly on issues that relate to the sanctity of human life, the Church is not being the Church. We are called to expose the darkness of sin through the teaching and preaching of God's holy Law, and we are called to announce the forgiveness of sins and the blessing of a new life through the Gospel, that is, through the life, death, and resurrection of the one Savior, **Jesus Christ**.

Therefore, we speak. We will not be silenced. We may not be liked; we may be called names such as "extremist" or "fetus-lovers," but in Christ's power and Word we take a stand anyway. We speak. We tell the truth about abortion. It kills. And it not only kills the baby, it harms the mother, the father, the family, the Church, and the world. *That* is not something on which we can stay silent. **God help us to stand! Amen.**



The Gift of Family at the End of Life

So far in this issue of *Lifelines*, we have read about God's gift of family for marriage, raising children, and the opportunity for adoption and how this beautiful gift is often attacked in our society. That is also true with the gift of family at the end of life. Some would have us believe that a person suffering with a terminal disease is simply a burden on the family and assisted suicide would be the merciful option.

But we know the truth. We know that life is a precious gift from God in all stages, including at the end of life and including in suffering. We know that our loving God is merciful and will give us the comfort and strength we need in even the most difficult times. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Perhaps no one has said it better than Mary Karner. Mary's mother, Maggie Karner, was the Director of LCMS Life and Health Ministries. She was also an amazing witness to the gift of life and family. Maggie died of brain cancer in 2015 after living her last days courageously against assisted suicide and For LIFE. Mary Karner wrote an article shortly after her mother's death and speaks of the gift her mother gave her at the end of life. Here is a section of that article. I strongly encourage you to read it in its entirety at <http://thefederalist.com/2015/10/06/my-mom-just-died-of-brain-cancer-heres-why-she-opposed-assisted-suicide/>.

Mary Karner wrote:

"My mom said it best in an op-ed in the *Hartford Courant*: 'My brain may be cancerous, but I still have lots to contribute to society as a strong woman, wife and mother while my family can daily learn the value of caring for me in my last days with compassion and dignity.'

I'm here to say that she was right. No matter how hard it was and still is. She was so right. And the greatest honor of my life was to care for my mom in her last days."

Legislative Report

Submitted by Pastor Paul Clark, President and Legislative Reporter, Lutherans For Life of the Michigan

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS:

The Stillborn Tax Equity Bill was passed and signed into law in Michigan. Starting with the 2019 tax year, families will be able to claim a stillborn child as a dependent on their income taxes.

There are two abortion cases out of Indiana that have petitioned the Supreme Court for a hearing. A decision on whether or not the court will hear the case could happen soon.

NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS:

Governor Snyder vetoed SB1198 – the telemedicine abortion sunset repealer bill. Telemedicine abortions will now be legal in the state of Michigan.

Governor Snyder also vetoed the Baby Box Legislation, allowing someone to drop off a newborn baby at a secure location without questioning. This has saved lives in states that have allowed this.

The newly inaugurated governor, Gretchen Whitmer, ran on a strong abortions-rights platform and there is great concern about her vetoing any pro-life legislation going forward in Michigan.

There has been no movement on any Federal pro-life bills lately.

2019 Lutherans For Life Regional Conferences

“Did God Really Say ... ?”

Grapevine, Texas

Living Word Lutheran Church – March 23, 2019

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Concordia University – April 27, 2019

Aurora (Denver), Colorado

Hope Lutheran Church – August 24, 2019

Rochester, Minnesota

Trinity Lutheran Church – September 14, 2019

Northeastern United States

(Location to be determined)

San Francisco, California

West Portal Lutheran Church – November 16, 2019



**“Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.” (John 6:68)**

<https://www.lutheransforlife.org/conference/>

2019 Life Issues Contest

For High School Students:

What: Essay Contest on the Sanctity of Human Life

Who: **Students in Grades 9-12.** Any high school student who attends a Lutheran school or church.

Sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents, Lutherans For Life. The Michigan winner will receive a \$100 prize and be entered into the national contest.

Contest Guidelines: Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the 2019 Conference theme: **“Did God Really Say...?”** and Conference bible verse: *“Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” (John 6:68).* Not incorporating the conference verse in the essay will disqualify the entry.

Entries are due by **February 28, 2019.**

Please ask your school principal or pastor for the details and an entry form.

For 7th and 8th Graders: Please plan now to participate in the 2019 Life Issues Contest sponsored by Lutherans For Life of Michigan.

There are two categories in which students can address the value of life in accordance with God’s Word: Essay or Artistic Project.

\$100 Grand Prize for each category winner and \$75 for 2nd Place in each category!

Entries are due by **March 15, 2019.**

Please ask your school principal or pastor for the details and an entry form.



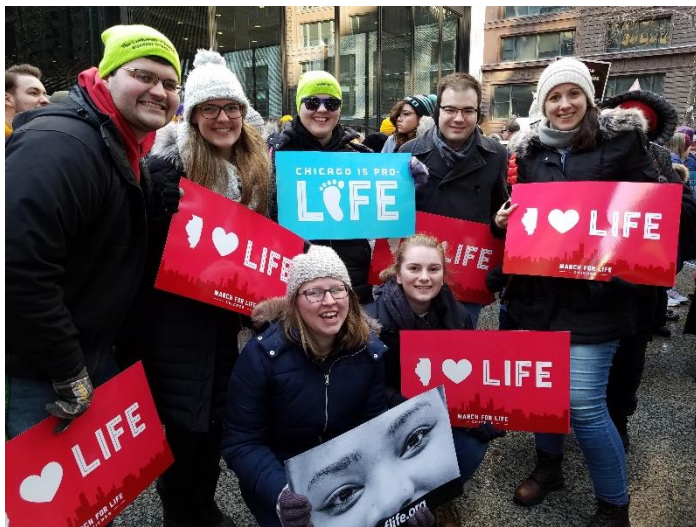
Y4Life Servant Events are a wonderful opportunity for chapters, life teams, schools and churches to reach out to youth and engage them in making a meaningful difference for Life in their community. They are adaptable to your area and your students and, best of all, they lay the foundation for future ministry opportunities with youth. Laura Davis, national Y4Life director, will help equip youth to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life! Email Laura for help with life-affirming youth servant events nationwide: ldavis@lutheransforlife.org.

What's Happening in Michigan?



Christmas Caroling at Planned Parenthood in Ann Arbor, Dec 22nd. Sweet, solemn, yet joyful since we know that Baby Jesus came to save. (submitted by Jennifer Connelly)

Approximately 9,000 people attended the March for Life - Chicago on Sun Jan 13th. I was blessed to be among them. Numerous LCMS folks were there, including a group from Concordia Chicago. (submitted by Jennifer Connelly, pictured far right)



Upcoming Events in 2019

Jan. 17-19 LCMS Life Conference, Westin Arlington Gateway Hotel, Arlington, VA

January 19 March for Life in Washington, D.C.

April 27 Lutherans For Life Regional Conference, Concordia University, Ann Arbor

Mother's Day – Father's Day Annual Statewide Diaper Drive held at area churches
to support local pregnancy centers

Check Out These Easy Ways to Give!

Lutherans For Life of Michigan receives a percentage of your purchase when you shop at...

Amazon Smile and choose us as your charity! For details, go to
<http://smile.amazon.com/about>.

Kroger and sign up to have us connected to your Kroger Plus Card as your charity! For details, go to <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/>

We have all grieved the loss of someone at some point in our lives. However, those who have lost a child to abortion often do not allow themselves to grieve. There is a Word of Hope for the broken spirit and grieving heart.

Word of Hope

LFL's Post Abortion Healing Ministry

We can help, contact us at:

1-888-217-8679

www.word-of-hope.org

help@word-of-hope.org

I WANT TO SPEAK OUT FOR LIFE!

I want to become a member of LFL (Please select a membership category.)

____ Annual: \$35 \$50 \$75 Other \$____ (A donation of any amount will enroll you as an annual member of LFL.)

____ Sponsor: I commit to a monthly gift of \$____ (Annual & Sponsor contributions to LFL are tax-deductible.)

I'm not interested in membership, but am enclosing a contribution of \$____ to support the national efforts of LFL.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Phone # _____

Chapter Name/# (if applicable) _____ Occupation _____

Congregation _____

Church Body (Synod) AALC _____ AFLC _____ CLBA _____ ELCA _____ LCMS _____ Other _____

Clip and send to: Lutherans For Life, 1101 - 5th Street, Nevada, IA 50201-1816
1-888-364-LIFE * (515) 382-3020 * E-mail: info@lutheransforlife.org *

Owen's Mission

Owen's Mission is a very special project of Lutherans For Life. The goal of this project 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 1078 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.

Where did **Owen's Mission** come from? From a very small and special baby named Owen. Rev Dr James Lamb, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life, shares his story:

"I held my little grandson, Owen, in the palm of my hand. He died at twenty-one weeks during pre-natal surgery to remove a large tumor. The nurse brought him to our son as we waited in the recovery room for Owen's mother. I find it difficult to describe what I felt when I was able to hold him. I had held the twenty-week Touch of Life fetal model in my hands hundreds of times in front of students from preschoolers to seminarians. Holding Owen revived in me the reality behind those models. I will never hold them in the same way again."

As Owen's grandpa, Dr Lamb wanted to do something special to remember Owen, honor Jesus, and help others understand the value God gives to even the smallest of lives. With the help of Owen's family, **Owen's Mission** was born. We are training facilitators to present these fetal model sets along with a DVD message from Dr Lamb.

This is a mission opportunity for individual, congregational, and/or school offerings. For more information on how you can obtain a set of these fetal models for your school, contact Chris Schultz at ckay.schultz@gmail.com or 734-770-7699.

Lutherans For Life of Michigan

331 North Sorrell Street Box 317

Fowler, MI 48835

NON PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT NO. 321



In the Next Issue...

March for Life

Legislative Report

What's Happening...in Michigan

Upcoming 2019 events

And More!

Quotes

“To be pro-life is to show that all life is precious, that the community of faith is there to support and help with every child. To be pro-life is to visit the elderly in the nursing home, to give them the dignity that they have as children of God. To be pro-life is to love the mothers, to love these women who are caught by circumstances, to help them with physical as well as spiritual needs.” (Rev. Christopher Maronde, pastor of Saint John Lutheran Church, Decatur, Indiana – *A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • www.lutheransforlife.org)

So what forms a "real" family? Unconditional love, servanthood, faithfulness, selflessness; these are the marks of a "real" family. These bonds are not created through any genetic obligation, but rather through caring for and loving each other through both good times and difficult situations. So whether you are part of a biological, adoptive, or blended family, care for each other as Christ cares for you. Through His death on the cross you have become part of God's family and have been given equal status with Christ as the Father's adopted children. (Diane E. Schroeder, <https://www.lutheransforlife.org/article/a-real-family-a-tribute-to-jennifer/>)