

LifeDate

Spring/
Summer
2019



A quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life

The Blessings and Burdens of Being (or Wishing One Could Be) a Mom or Dad



Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life!

Inside this edition of LifeDate ...

page 3

From the Executive Director

10 Blessings of Large Families

by Pastor Michael Salemink

pages 4-5

Lutherans For Life – Bethesda Lutheran Communities

Wonderfully Made – Bethesda Lutheran Communities – Lutherans For Life

The Dream and Story of Parenting

by Mona Fuerstenau

pages 6-7

Abortion/Post Abortion/Alternatives

The Real Hippocratic Oath

by Donna J. Harrison, M.D.

pages 8-15

Family Living

Proliferate by Pastor Michael Salemink

Caregiving = Burden-Bearing

by Marie K. MacPherson

Looking for the Good

by Diane E. Schroeder

God's Children by Lynette Auch

pages 16-17

Lutherans For Life Resources

pages 18-19

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

page 20

World News

pages 21-30

Spotlight on Lutherans For Life

Share the Life Message All through the Year! / Word of Hope

New York State's Abortion Law

by Pastor Michael Salemink

Together Beat Our Hearts

A Better Way by Pastor Scott Licht

Lutherans For Life at the 2019 March for Life

Scenes from the 2019 March for Life

2020 March for Life/Y4Life Director/

Estate Planning/Real Estate for Life/LFL on Social Media

LAMBs – Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets

2019 LFL Regional Conferences

Like and follow us on ...



Lutherans For Life

Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life

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

Lutherans For Life

1101 5th Street

Nevada, IA 50201-1816

888.364.LIFE (5433)

515.382.2077

info@lutheransforlife.org

www.lutheransforlife.org

National LFL Office Staff

Rev. Michael W. Salemink – Executive Director

Rev. Scott Licht – National Director

Lowell J. Highby – Director of Communications

Deaconess Rachel Geraci – Mission and Ministry Director

Laura Hemminger – Director of Y4Life

Jerilyn Richard – Data Analyst

Kim Nessa – Accountant

Debra Freese – Office Clerk

Katie Friedrich – Office Assistant

Virginia Flo – Regional Director of Minnesota & National Conference Director

Barb Geistfeld – Regional Director of Texas

Deaconess Chrissie Gillet – Director of Word of Hope

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

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

Scripture marked NKJV is taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture marked EHV is taken from The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) copyright © 2017 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. www.wartburgproject.org

facebook **twitter**

10 Blessings of Large Families

by Pastor Michael Salemink

God loves children—and God loves having lots of children. He doesn't demand an abundance of children from every human family, however. Even little families and only children are great treasures. But our culture seems to have developed a particular disdain for big households.

“Are those all yours?”

“You know how that happens, right?”

“Can you really afford another baby?”

“You sure have your hands full!”

Large families come with unique benefits. I surveyed my Facebook network about it recently. “My friends who have four or more children—or who have three or more siblings—what special blessings does living in a large family bring?” They had lots of positive responses. Here are the top ten:

1. Guaranteed friends, even into adulthood.
2. Ready-made laboratory for learning people skills like taking turns and getting along.
3. MORE HUGS, MORE CUDDLES, MORE GIGGLES!
4. What one forgets, another one remembers.
5. Less housework for Mom and Dad.
6. Free babysitting (also, no need to save for retirement—just live with one of them).
7. MORE GRANDBABIES!
8. God's unconditional love on every face.
9. Increases chances for Christians to take over the world.
10. Foretaste of the feast to come (Revelation 7:9)!



Wonderfully Made – Bethesda Lutheran Communities – Lutherans For Life

The mission of **Lutherans For Life** is to equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. The mission of **Bethesda** is to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through services that share the good news of Jesus Christ.

We rejoice that the missions of our respective ministries share a common foundation: that God has created, redeemed, and called every human being—of any age, appearance, and ability—to be His own precious treasure forever and a special privilege to His people.

We both believe that speaking this truth means showing Christ's love. His forgiving and saving grace makes up for all humankind's shortcomings, works through all our weaknesses, and sanctifies all our differences. Our Maker and Father has not designed us for comparison or for uniformity. Suffering touches everybody—but so does blessing. Every person has a purpose on earth and for eternity, whether or not it is perceived and appreciated. Putting this conviction into action by celebrating and sharing the abundant and everlasting life Jesus sparkles through each of us allows us to receive one another not only as neighbors but as among the highest of heaven's gifts.

We look forward to collaborating on select projects. We have begun exploring the development of joint educational resources and congregational activities, and we will participate together in united messaging efforts wherever our organizations' missions intersect. To God be the glory!

www.lutheransforlife.org

www.bethesdalc.org

 **Lutherans For Life**



 **Bethesda**

The Dream and Story of Parenting

by Mona Fuerstenau

Parenthood is a grand adventure! It's a story that begins in our dreams and unfolds over years—full of plot twists and turns that take our breath away (both in good ways and bad). We have a dream of our children and our family. We wonder which parts of us and our spouse they will also have. We think about the ways in which they will be uniquely different from either of us. We hope our son will have the love of music that we do or that our daughter will have a love of sports. We might even pray that there are some of our traits that they will not have! This is all part of the delicious anticipation during the period of expecting. We are praying and hoping and dreaming and expecting.

In truth, reality is never like the dream. Your son may have inherited your least favorite uncle's red hair. Your baby may arrive too early and with many medical issues. Your daughter may have the spirited temperament of your feisty sibling. Your child may have a disability that is immediately apparent or that unfolds over time. None of your children share your fascination with and love of science.

So, what do we do with these “dream” differences?

We write a different story—with God's help. We love our children, despite the unanticipated differences from our dreams. We recognize each as a God-given, wonderfully designed gift. Psalm 139:13-16 affirms for us that God has knit each of us together. Each one of us is fearfully and wonderfully made.

I would venture to say that not many people praying to be parents dream of having a child with a disability. I know I didn't. That was not part of my dream story. It is a plot twist that is different, unexpected, not what we had planned. Having a child with a disability is so significantly different from the family dream we can lose sight of who we are *and whose we are*.

But we ARE His. God is good, all the time. We can fully put our trust and our children in His hands. We can each become who He wants us to be. And as we grow and learn, we appreciate and embrace our parenting story, rich beyond what we ever could have dreamed or imagined.

We, the Church, can help these parents and families. Bethesda can provide support in talking with parents expecting or discovering a child with disabilities. Our ministry consultants across the country provide support and resources for the Church to walk alongside these families. Visit our website www.BethesdaLC.org and click on your state to see services offered locally. See also Bethesda's resource called “Welcoming a Child with Disabilities” available at www.cph.org under the Shop Bethesda button.

Together we can write and share God's wonderful plan and story for all of His children in His family.



The Real Hippocratic Oath

by Donna J. Harrison, M.D., Executive Director of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists

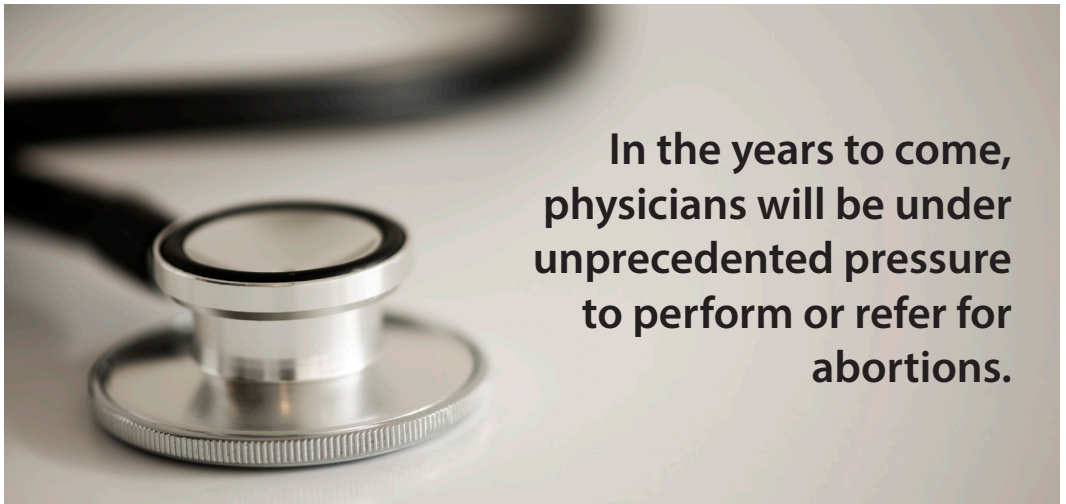
This year—and in the years to come—physicians who won’t kill their patients are going to undergo unprecedented pressure from pro-abortion physician groups to be forced to perform or refer for abortions. Euthanasia performance or referral will shortly follow.

But there is something that can be done. Please consider asking your doctor two questions:

1. **Have you taken the *real* Hippocratic Oath?** The “Essential Hippocratic Oath” is featured with this article. The issue at stake is the tenets which forbid abortion and euthanasia. If your doctor has not taken the ACTUAL Hippocratic Oath with the Essential Tenets, please ask him or her to consider doing so.
2. **Are you a member of one or more of the medical groups listed below?** If he or she says “No,” then please ask, “Why not?” and ask if he or she would consider finding out more and joining at least one of these groups.

Medical group options include: Hippocratic Registry (www.hippocraticregistry.com), American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (aaplog.org), American College of Pediatricians (www.acpeds.org), Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (aapsonline.org), Christian Medical and Dental Associations (cmda.org), Catholic Medical Association (www.cathmed.org).

If you would help get the word out, we could change the face of medicine in this country. Most people don’t realize that the vast majority of physicians in the United States have NOT taken the Hippocratic Oath. (Looking back in history, when physicians did not take or follow the Hippocratic Oath, atrocities often followed.)



**In the years to come,
physicians will be under
unprecedented pressure
to perform or refer for
abortions.**

A Pledge to My Patients: The Essential Hippocratic Oath

In the presence of the Almighty, I promise that I will fulfill this Oath to the best of my ability.

Those who have taught me the art of Medicine I will respect, and will seek to faithfully impart my knowledge to those who also accept this covenant and to whom I am a mentor.

I will always seek the physical and emotional well-being of my patients, according to my ability and judgment, being careful to cause no intentional harm.

I will not help a patient to commit suicide, nor will I suggest such a course.

Neither will I give someone an abortive remedy, nor will I suggest such a course.

In purity and holiness, I will maintain the utmost respect for human life, carefully guarding my role as a healer.

When indicated, I will seek the counsel of those with appropriate special skills for the treatment of my patient.

I will always act for the benefit of the sick, treating all with professional and moral integrity, with respect and dignity.

I will avoid all sexual involvement with my patients.

Those things that I learn from or about my patient in confidence, I will hold in strict confidence.

May I be found faithful to these promises and may I enjoy the practice of my art, being respected as one who is dedicated to the healing of the sick.

Proliferate

by Pastor Michael Salemink

Make “pro-life” into a verb, and you get *proliferate*. It means increase, multiply, mushroom rapidly and even ridiculously. Proliferate also indicates childbearing, begetting numerous babies. Every child embodies God’s own precious gift. That includes each *additional* child. More children bring more treasures, more privileges.

In God’s story, large families come with special blessings. The Scriptures speak enthusiastically about procreation and proliferation. Get a load of the good Lord’s very first words as soon as Adam and Eve opened their eyes, what He eagerly blurted out before anything else: **“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth!”** (Genesis 1:28). Multiply instead of only adding! Join Me in the fun of making more! It’s such a central source of joy that He repeats it—thrice!—for Noah’s crew (Genesis 8:17; 9:1, 7).

The Bible can’t describe Job’s wealth without paying particular attention to his ten children. “[T]hat man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east” (Job 1:1-3). Nor does the sacred record illustrate his agony apart from being deprived of them. **“Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, and**

behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead!” (Job 1:18-19).

God’s epic promise to Abraham—the utmost benediction in Israel’s entire history—encompassed abundant descendants. **“I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore”** (Genesis 22:17). Two consecutive psalms declare the desire for God to grant this pleasure to each of His people. **“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). **“Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table”** (Psalm 128:3).

Isaiah’s oracles exult in manifold children. **“Sing, O barren one, who did not**



bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married,' says the Lord" (Isaiah 54:1). And the prophet Malachi proclaims that the making of children provides a primary purpose of marriage. "Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring" (Malachi 2:15).

Jesus Himself has only highest regard for how each successive child displays His grace. "When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world" (John 16:21). "[T]hey were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the children

come to me; do not hinder them ...'. And he took them in his arms and blessed them" (Mark 10:13-14, 16). "[C]alling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, 'Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me ... See that you do not despise one of these little ones'" (Matthew 18:2-5, 10a).

The apostles also consider children as proclamation of the Gospel and portrait of faith. "Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born

of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him" (1 John 5:1). "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation" (1 Peter 2:2).

To be sure, our God Father does not give the vocation of a large family to everyone. (And, of course, any quantity of family and offspring He bestows is a great benefit.) But we need not despise proliferation the way the world does. Indeed, we may appreciate and assist our brothers and sisters who engage in this holy (and delightful!) calling. And we may also raise our young ones to cherish procreation and adoption more than any personal preferences or material possessions.

The blessings of children always outweigh even the burdens!



Caregiving = Burden-Bearing

by Marie K. MacPherson

Recently, I heard a speaker state that loved ones are *never* burdens. A pro-life champion, I truly believe he meant well, but I have to disagree: caring for those in our midst is *often* a burden. Whether they are your children, parents, church or community members, or some combination of each, it is easy to feel weighed down by numerous responsibilities to those in our charge. Providing food, shelter, transportation, finance, and medical support to our loved ones, short- or long-term, frequently feels like an overwhelming burden!

To be a “burden-bearer,” known in the vernacular as a caregiver, can be a difficult vocation, but the word “burden” in Greek (*baros*) carries the connotation of importance. From eternity, the Lord has planned that *you* would care for another of His children (Ephesians 2:10)! Like a heavy knapsack filled with necessities for an overnight hiking trip, the earthly burden of caring for a loved one is weighty but can contain valuable spiritual lessons, such as patience, gentleness, and selflessness. Caregiving is not only how God serves as a channel of His blessings to others, it is how He shapes *you* into the new creation He means for you to be (Philippians 1:6). Through the “refining fire” of burden-bearing, your faith is tested to honor your Savior, Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:7, Romans 8:29).

Like the labor force employed to bear great physical burdens in building the magnificent Temple of Solomon, bearing the burdens of others may prove fraught with struggle. Yet, it contributes to a beautiful ‘bigger picture’ as we share in the sufferings of Christ (1 Kings 5:14-16, 1 Peter 4:12-13). Jesus promises that His disciples will be faced with trials and burdens but adds that He has already overcome those difficulties, inviting us to trade our heavy burdens for His rest (John 16:33, Matthew 11:28). Saint



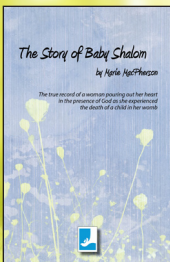
Paul urges New Testament Christians to “[b]ear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). We serve others not to gain “points” with God or earn our own salvation (as if we ever could!) but rather in humble thanksgiving to Christ and in sanctified living toward our neighbor.

To feel burdened and weighed down with the care of another soul is not in itself a sin. Old Testament leaders Moses and Solomon felt burdened by their vocations (Numbers 11:11-15, Ecclesiastes 1:12-14). Even several books of the minor prophets begin by acknowledging their oracles as “burdens” from the Lord (Nahum, Habakkuk, Malachi – NKJV). However, we can quickly turn selfish at the prospect of the burden of caring for loved ones. We may grumble about sacrifices such as lost time, money, or sleep. Scripture is clear that we should obey God’s commandments and show love to others unselfishly (John 15:12, 1 John 5:2-4), but it even goes so far as to command us to *rejoice* as we pass through trials (James 1:2). Surely, it is easy to see our own depravity when it comes to bearing others’ burdens unselfishly.

Thank God, though, that we have Christ: not only as an example of altruistic giving as He bears our burdens, but also as the actual payment for the burden of our sins as caregivers. On the cross, Christ washed away each and every sin you commit while burden-bearing for others. Heaven is yours, regardless of your wicked thoughts, words, and actions in your vocation. He showers you with this forgiveness as your pastor pronounces it in the Divine Service, as you taste His body and blood in the Lord’s Supper, as you remember your Baptism, and as you read His Word. Now forgiven, God graciously gives you the tools of prayer, thanksgiving, and community to point you to your true Strength (Deuteronomy 1:11-13, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Psalm 55:22).

Whether you struggle with impatience, weariness, or selfishness as a “burden-bearer,” God forgives you. He holds you in His almighty hands and uses *you* to be a blessing to those in your midst. On earth, there will be no shortage of burdens to bear as we care for those in need. But one day, these burdens will be lifted from our shoulders in Heaven, where the Lord will see us through the lens of Christ’s perfect sacrifice and will say, **“Well done, good and faithful servant! ... Enter into the joy of your master”** (Matthew 25:21). Rest in His unfailing love.

Mrs. Marie K. MacPherson lives in Mankato, Minnesota, with her husband, Ryan, and their six children whom she homeschools. She is author of The Story of Baby Shalom (Item LFL910B, www.cph.org) and Meditations on the Vocation of Motherhood (2018), editor of Mothering Many: Sanity-Saving Strategies from Moms of Four or More (2016), and a certified classical Lutheran educator from the Consortium of Classical Lutheran Educators (CCLE).



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.

Item LFL910B. **\$2.00 ea.** (www.cph.org)

Looking for the Good

by Diane E. Schroeder, Former President of Lutherans For Life

We all have a story, and my family is no different. Over 35 years ago, God used our infertility and the adoption of four children to push my husband and me into a pro-life ministry that has been the passion and focus of our lives. He took a bitter and painful situation and used it to mold the lives of two unwilling people for the purpose He had intended.

Fast forward to 2013—to the highly anticipated birth of our first grandchild. Mike (our oldest son) and Katie had been married for several years and were eagerly awaiting the birth of their first child, as were Grandma and Grandpa. Molly Clare Schroeder was born on December 14, 2013, amidst great expectation and hoopla. But soon there was a problem. Molly did not pass her newborn hearing screening test. Then there began a series of appointments with doctors and audiologists to find a diagnosis. Soon it came: profound hearing loss. Due to a genetic issue, Molly was completely deaf. It was a devastating diagnosis for Mike and Katie. Into their perfect plans for parenting, a horrible diagnosis had been thrown. Their initial emotions were overwhelming. Will Molly ever speak, hear music, hear a bird sing, or say I love you? Fear of the unknown engulfed Mike and Katie. They knew nothing about deafness. All they knew was that deafness was the inability to hear and subsequently speak. Would they need to learn sign language to communicate with their child? They didn't know of any other options.

Soon, however, hope entered the picture. At their first appointment with an audiologist at Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago, Child's Voice (a special school for deaf children) was mentioned. At the school, children with hearing loss who are equipped with devices, such as hearing aids or Cochlear® implants, are taught to hear, speak, and live in a hearing world. Their audiologist told them that they believed Molly could be a candidate for a Cochlear® implant, which would allow her to hear, and they were encouraged to visit the school.

At Child's Voice, children with various devices came up to them and introduced themselves. They soon realized that Molly did have a future. It was apparent that Molly's deafness was part of God's plan for their lives. They firmly know that He would not give them more than they could handle. Their initial "Why me? Why Molly?" turned to prayers for strength, for Molly, and for guidance in raising their daughter. A series of intense therapies then began, including Cochlear® implantation that dictated their lives. Now five years later, Molly is a chatterbox. Her brother, Beau, also equipped with Cochlear® implants, will be starting full-time preschool this year. Their lives have been transformed. They have found a whole new community of teachers, friends, and fellow parents and have become advocates for the deaf community to the hearing world in which they live. How they handled the adversity that confronted them is an example for others. It is apparent that God is working in their lives.

Here are some suggestions from Mike and Katie for others going through a similar journey: First, for them as for all of us, it is imperative to look for the good. Katie talks about the blessing of the first time your child's Cochlear® implants are activated and they hear a sound—a truly special moment. Most parents are not blessed that way and

only experience the usual milestones—sitting, crawling, walking. All families have fellow groups that they associate with—school, sports, music, theater, etc.—but their family is unique. They have an additional sub group: the deaf community. A huge positive for them was finding a community they didn’t even know existed. Now they head up the parent association plus other events, blessing the other deaf families at Child’s Voice with their skills, passion, time, and devotion.

Second, when facing adversity, embrace the situation. Once Katie and Mike realized that this was God’s plan for their life, they got going. They have children to raise! “Fight the urge to sit in a dark room and cry. Find the positive and embrace it. You can’t just sit behind a computer and do research—you have to live it,” says Katie. “We can’t dwell on the negatives; we must lean on God and move forward. Find the support you need (no matter what it is), such as counseling, financial aid, education.” For Mike and Katie it was finding Child’s Voice, a resource that has changed their whole lives.

Although the future is bright for Molly and Beau, Mike and Katie still worry about how their deaf children will survive in a hearing world. What will schoolmates say about their “special ears”? How will Molly get up for a college class if she can’t hear the alarm clock? But God has been faithful, and as they continue their walk within the deaf community, these answers will become apparent.

As for me, Grandma, when Molly’s deafness was first diagnosed, I thought through my tears: “God, what are you doing? Can’t I ever have a ‘normal’ life?” But soon it was apparent that God in His wisdom had a different plan. And every day I am blessed to see His plan as a little girl with her “special ears” runs to me, yells Grandma, and gives me a hug.

God is faithful all the time. Trust God and watch Him work.



“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

Molly Schroeder and her brother, Beau

God's Children

by Lynette Auch, President of Lutherans For Life

Two little boys, around four to five years of age, were praying in church. With an angelic face one prayed, “Dear Lord, please let Mommy have a Happy Mother’s Day. Amen.” The other one covered his eyes with his hands and prayed, “Lord, please don’t let Mom know it was me that painted the cat.”

We may chuckle, but I am sure we can all relate in one way or another: living as good, upright Christians or struggling with some foolishness or sin we committed and do not want to be found out.

The heroes of the faith—Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rahab, David, and others mentioned in Hebrews 11—were creations conceived in sin (Psalm 51:5) and all had their sin-filled moments. Despite their shortcomings, though, they had faith.

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for ... All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth ... Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.” (Hebrews 11:1-2, 13, 16 NIV)

January 2019 marked the 19th anniversary of my mother being called to the victory of eternal life! As we mourned the sudden loss of her physical presence, many people who knew her or worked with her shared beautiful memories and thoughts about her. Many even commented on her faith in Jesus. From these words an outsider might have gathered that my mother was a good person. Yes, she was a good person, but she was still imperfect and very much a sinner like anyone else—and she knew it.

As I reflected on the thoughts, memories, and comments, it brought to mind that my mom was like the Hebrews 11 heroes of the faith. Mom had an intimate relationship with her Heavenly Father. She loved Him and she knew of His love for her. She knew He created her and that she could come to Him, her Abba Father, with her deepest needs and darkest sins. Mom knew Jesus. She knew and understood the redeeming, sacrificial love of her Lord and Savior. She knew the sanctifying nature of the Holy Spirit.

As a child, I often witnessed her kneeling at her bedside confidently talking to God. She knew she was His child. She knew this place was not her home, and she longed for heaven, her forever home.

At the time of mom’s passing, our children were twelve and eight years old. Having gone through parenting classes (*Growing Kids God’s Way* by Gary and Anne Marie Ezzo), my husband and I were already dedicated to trying to “grow our kids God’s way.” We, especially, wanted the legacy of Mom’s faith to be passed on to them—to learn, to know, to witness, to live. We knew that legacy needed to be the ultimate focus in our home.

Of course, as sinful humans the atmosphere of our home was far from how we really

wanted it. Nevertheless, our children were regularly reminded that they were loved with the everlasting love of God, they were not their own, that their bodies were the temple of the Holy Spirit, and that they were bought at a price (1 Corinthians 6:19). Before leaving our home for activities, they were often prayed over and reminded of *whose* they were, God's child, a son or daughter of the *KING* of Kings, and, therefore, they were expected to act, speak, and live in such a way as to glorify their Heavenly Father.

Deuteronomy 6:5-7 was a frequent reference in our home. I hope other parents find it helpful as they pass on their legacy of faith to their children.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

Dear Heavenly Father, please help Christian parents to realize the most important thing that they can do for their children is to impress upon them their love for You and Your commandments to love You with all their heart, soul, and strength. Help parents resist the worldly temptations that may keep them from passing on a legacy of faith in Your Son, Jesus Christ, for generations to come. In Jesus's name, Amen.

Children of the heav'nly Father,
safely in His bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in
heaven such a refuge
e'er was given.

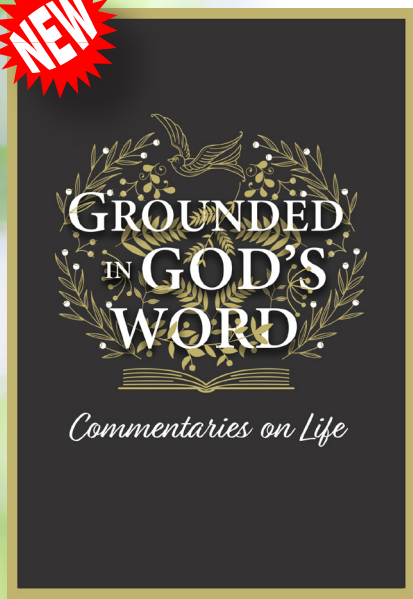
God His own doth
tend and nourish; in
His holy courts they
flourish. From all evil
things He spares them;
in His mighty arms He
bears them.

Neither life nor death shall
ever from the Lord His chil-
dren sever; unto them His
grace He showeth, and
their sorrows all He
knoweth.

Though He giveth
or He taketh, God
His children ne'er
forsaketh; His the
loving purpose solely to
preserve them pure and
holy.

Text: © Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission.

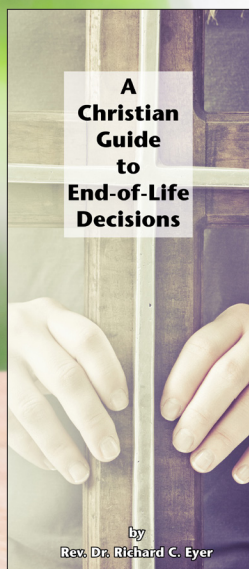
CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER



Grounded in God's Word: Commentaries on Life

God's Word gives life. God's Word concerns life. Collected here are easy-to-read commentaries concerning topics such as moral worth, abortion, evolution, suffering, life and death decisions, biblical manhood and womanhood, and other sanctity of life issues. Grounded in Scripture, these relevant essays explore what is revealed in God's Word and discuss a wide array of topics pertaining to human life, God's grace, and His perfect love for us in Christ Jesus.

Item 124552. \$15.99 ea.



A Christian Guide to End-of-Life Decisions

An updated edition of "A Christian Guide to End-of-Life Decisions" is now available through Concordia Publishing House. Spiritual insight into end-of-life issues by Rev. Richard C. Eyer, who offers guidance in Christian decision-making and in being a faithful witness to God's presence in your life.

Item LFL801R. \$0.50 ea.



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

Baptism
Life Begins UNDERWATER!

Most of your growth before birth took place in a "bag of water" known as the "amniotic sac" filled with you, guess it, amniotic fluid! Growing inside your mom, you did **COOL, STUFF** as you floated around like an astronaut in space. You could

- do somersaults,
- swim (because mom—backstroke),
- tread water,
- kick your mom and rearrange her teeth,
- be spit and puke out!

Mom supplied your oxygen and other needs through the umbilical cord. Otherwise you would have drowned!

Confession
BIG SINS? Little sins?
Is there a difference?

IN OUR EYES MAYBE, BUT NOT GOD'S!
Let some one else be difficult to deal with

ABORTION IS THAT KIND OF SIN.

Imagine how you would feel if you accidentally started a fire and burned down your neighbor's garage. What if his dog died in the fire? His daughter? The girl would be tremendous.

Now imagine making a choice that results in the death of your own son or daughter through abortion.

At first you might not realize that the "problem" has been taken care of.

But the guilt will come sooner or later, it will be unbearable. That's why many try to tell it down deep inside, but it will come out.

The Creed
Life is special! You are special!

WHY???
Good looks?
1,000 friends on Facebook?
Great abs?
Sports hero?
Math genius?
Gamer extraordinaire?

Talented artist or musician?

WRONG!

Want to know the REAL answer?
Turn this over!

Prayers For Life Based on the Lord's Prayer

Our Father
We dare call You Father because You adopted us as Your children (Galatians 4:6-7). Be with and bless all adoptive families.

Hallowed Be Your Name
May we keep Your name holy by respecting the value You give to human life (Palm 84-5).

Thy Kingdom Come
Give us Your Holy Spirit that we might lead godly lives and make godly, life-affirming choices (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).

Thy Will Be Done
Hinder the evil plans of the devil who seeks to profane Your gift of life (Hebrews 2:14).

Sacrament of the Altar
Life Can Be Good!
You passed the test! You made the team! He smiled at you!

But Life Can Be Rotten
None of the above happens—ever!

And Life Can Be REALLY Rotten
Someone you love dies. Your parents divorce. A friend gets cancer.

Where is God when life is rotten???

Guess what? You can meet God! To find more, turn this over!

The Sixth Commandment
MARRIAGE is the place for SEX.

Sex is a gift from God (Genesis 1:27, 2:24-25). **Marriage** is a holy institution between a man and a woman, reflecting Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:32). **Chastity** is the choice of **Champions** (those created, redeemed, and called by God). That's your **Chastity** is also the positive choice **Champions** make to honor God inside and outside of marriage.

Inside marriage = faithfulness to your spouse. Outside marriage = choosing to love and honor your future spouse.

"Huh? How can I love my future spouse?"

Turn this over to learn more about loving your future spouse!

The First Commandment
Can death be a god?
YES!

When we turn to death to rescue us from our problems, that makes **ABORTION and ASSISTED SUICIDE and EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH** **IDOLATRY!**

Why? Death becomes a god—the solution to an unplanned pregnancy, pain and suffering, and disease.

To find a much better answer, turn this over!

Item LFL1632

LifeMarks

LifeMarks is a set of seven bookmarks—recently updated—designed to directly apply the Bible's teachings on life as found in Luther's Small Catechism—and fit right into the catechism itself! This is a wonderful resource for confirmation, congregational, Sunday school, and home use!

Item LFL1632. \$1.00 ea.

Abortion and the Message of the Church: Sin or Salvation?



Abortion and the Message of the Church: Sin or Salvation?

A new edition of our classic brochure "Abortion and the Message of the Church: Sin or Salvation?" is now available from Concordia Publishing House. Dr. James Lamb shows that throughout history the Church has called abortion sin. Only recently have some started calling abortion salvation—a way out of a difficult situation (but it is not a way out). It only creates guilt and despair to which the Church must apply its most powerful message, the Gospel of Jesus.

Item LFL205T. \$0.50 ea.

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



Life Thoughts in the Church Year

(Based on appointed readings from *Lutheran Service Book*)

You can find Life Thoughts based on the historic One-Year Lectionary at:
www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-thoughts-in-the-church.

April 7 – Lent V – “Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!” (Psalm 126:5). Choosing life isn’t always easy. Enduring illnesses, giving birth, caring for children, and speaking truth in love often involve suffering. However, our good Lord forms all people—and their circumstances—for Himself. And life received from Him brings celebrations that eclipse all sorrows. Whoever trusts Christ’s grace will also take hold of His glory (Philippians 3:8-11).

April 14 – Palm Sunday – Our Almighty Maker reserves the right and responsibility for decisions about life and death (Deuteronomy 32:39). Jesus has earned this authority by swallowing up death in His crucifixion. And He has proven Himself trustworthy in life-and-death matters by bringing forth joy even from sorrow in His resurrection. What a great relief! The times and terms of human lives and deaths rest securely in His loving and saving hand.

April 21 – Resurrection of Our Lord – A surprise pregnancy or an incurable condition can leave us feeling like we have to make friends with death just to keep from suffering alone. But God goes with us as our Savior and Father even into death’s domain (Psalm 16:10). And He never escorts us there without also carrying us through it (Psalm 16:11). We don’t have to surrender a single breath, because every Good Friday finds its Easter Sunday in Jesus!

April 28 – Easter II – “Young men and maidens together, old men and children! Let them praise the name of the Lord[!]” (Psalm 148:12-13). Every life—however little, however weak, however seemingly miserable—has been brought forth by our good God for joyful purpose. He takes hold of even the most hopeless-looking situations (Revelation 1:18) to show—and share—His abundant, everlasting life (John 20:27). Behold it, believe it, and receive it!

May 5 – Easter III – Even the one whose faculties are declining and whose dying appears undignified shines in the light of God’s love and power (John 21:18-19). Jesus who rose, reigns, and is returning smuggles blessings in every burden. His gracious guidance speedily and mightily conducts dances out of dirges (Psalm 30:11). And He extends this compassion to every human being without exception (Revelation 5:9)!

May 12 – Easter IV/Mother’s Day – Among motherhood’s greatest works is comforting distraught little ones. Where the world would wipe out lives by murder, the Lamb once slain but raised again mothers us by wiping away our tears (Revelation 7:17). Heavenly Father’s forgiveness and salvation heal even the guilt of abortion, the grief of terminal diagnosis, and the fear of complicated pregnancy. The Hand that rules the world also rocks the cradle.

May 19 – Easter V – “What God has made clean, do not call common” (Acts 11:9). The



same grace that sanctifies our consciences also safeguards the lives of the least of these. By creating them with His own fingers (Psalm 139:13), redeeming them with His own blood (2 Corinthians 5:19), and calling them with His own Spirit and Word (Matthew 28:19), the Lord our God has declared every member of our race, including embryos and elderly ones, not only clean but precious.

May 26 – Easter VI – Speaking and acting as Gospel-motivated voices for life sometimes meets with frustration and discouragement. Nevertheless, what we call our failures God calls His patience. The sanctity of life is not our project but His holy truth and will. The courageous and compassionate proclamation of it cannot fail to bring forth fruit, however small or slow (Acts 16:13-15). Take heart—He who has overcome the world abides in this cause (John 16:33).

June 2 – Easter VII – Abortion advocates sometimes claim the Scriptures are silent about the practice. However, the Greek term for the “sorcerers” condemned in Revelation 22:15 also refers to those who prepared abortifacients. On the other hand, every story entrusted to the Lord of Life ends beautifully (Revelation 22:1-5)—even if it involves a surprise pregnancy or a terminal diagnosis.

June 9 – Pentecost – The world promises that abortions, embryo experiments, and physician-assisted suicides will achieve peace. But wherever death establishes an empire, it excuses nobody and enslaves all to grief. The life-giving Spirit that Jesus bestows in His Gospel instead produces the real peace of being unconditionally loved by and infinitely precious to the Ruler of the Universe (John 16:27). And this peace is for all persons and all circumstances (Acts 2:17-21).

June 16 – Holy Trinity/Father’s Day – The best fathers guide their children to find their voice instead of stifling it. Even the youngest among us—unborn ones, too!—have a sacred privilege and vocation to take part in testifying of the goodness of our Maker and Savior (Psalm 8:2). Their Gospel-motivated voices may speak without grown-up words, but they strengthen us as evidence of how precious we are to our Heavenly Father even though we are helpless.

June 23 – Pentecost II (Proper 7C) – God became an embryo to declare embryos precious. He experienced gestation to hallow the womb as His canvas. He received parents to especially bless procreation and childrearing. He suffered to sanctify all of our

afflictions, including the untreatable ones. Jesus came to claim even the tiniest of our species and make His family out of the neediest human beings (Galatians 4:4-7). We get to call God “Father” and become brothers and sisters to any human being!

June 30 – Pentecost III (Proper 8C) – Elijah prayed for assisted suicide (1 Kings 19:4). Instead God heard the burdens of his heart. He didn’t abandon Elijah to death but instead assured Him of His presence in suffering and His power perfected in weakness. Elijah’s Almighty Father surrounded him with a caring community to be dependent upon (1 Kings 19:15-18). Isn’t this the freedom (Galatians 5:1, 13, 22-24) He offers all humankind—especially Christians?



About 25 percent of Dutch deaths are caused or induced by doctors, according to *The Guardian* newspaper. The Netherlands decriminalized euthanasia and assisted suicide 15 years ago. According to the report, these euthanasia deaths do not all involve lethal injection ... The

euthanasia law in The Netherlands, first introduced for patients in extreme cases, has expanded to a point that Dutch euthanasia is counted as a basic health service. [Wesley J. Smith, senior fellow at the Discovery Institute's Center on Human Exceptionalism] explains, "Induced deaths have expanded from the terminally ill who ask for it, to the chronically ill who ask for it, to people with disabilities and the elderly who ask for it, to people with dementia, psychiatric patients with mental illness (83 in 2017), and the infanticide of babies born with serious or terminal illnesses or disabilities who don't have the capacity to ask for it." (*National Review*, 1/21/19; *CLR LifeWire*, 1/25/19)

A video of an eight-week-old unborn child which had to be removed because of an ectopic pregnancy is illustrating the humanity of the unborn child and that even an early abortion takes a human life. The video was originally shared two years ago by Jonathan Van Maren, communications director for the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform, but it is now gaining more attention through the Nurses & Midwives 4Life Ireland Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Nurses4LifeIrl). It shows the tiny unborn baby, who was only about eight weeks old, moving his or her arms, legs, and head. Tragically, the baby would not have survived—he or she started growing in the mother's fallopian tube, a situation where the baby cannot survive and which is potentially fatal for the mother. In traditional medical ethics, removing a damaged fallopian tube (containing an embryo that sadly will not survive) with the intention to save the mother is allowed under the principle of double effect and is not considered an abortion. According to comments on the original video, the parents of the baby wanted the video posted to help in the fight against abortion and to show that the baby they tragically lost was not a blob of tissue. The images are particularly powerful as they are of a baby in the first trimester—the time when babies are commonly dismissed as "clumps of cells" or "not a baby yet." (*SPUC*, 1/17/19)

Ireland's new abortion regime came into effect on January 1, 2019. It was reported that about 20 women sought consultations on abortion on January 2, the first working day of the new service ... The new Irish abortion regime, which was signed into law just before Christmas, is in many ways even more extreme than the law in the UK, allowing abortion on demand up to 12 weeks ... Abortion activists are now targeting Northern Ireland, the last part of the British Isles which is largely abortion free ... While Ireland begins 2019 by ending the lives of its unborn children, some continue to seek protection for the unborn and reject the way of Herod. (*SPUC*, 1/7/19)

Abortions Worldwide in 2019

www.worldometers.info/abortions

To learn about the international outreach of Lutherans For Life,
go to: 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 (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).

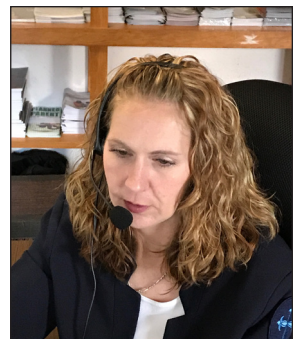
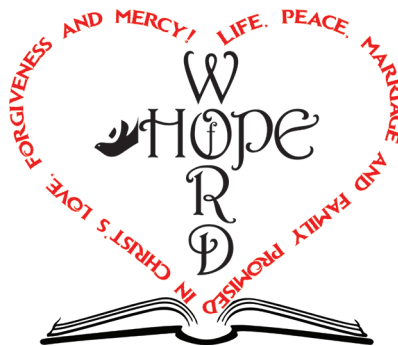
Check out “Life on the Web” on our Life Blog



www.lutheransforlife.org/life-blog

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 • www.word-of-hope.org

Since 1973: 60,942,033 abortions in America

Source: <https://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/2019/01/national-right-to-life-releases-6th-annual-state-of-abortion-report/>

New York State's Abortion Law

by Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life

Today we grieve with the citizens and residents of New York. On Tuesday, January 22, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed the Reproductive Health Act into law.

The state has tolerated abortion up to 24-weeks gestation since before *Roe v. Wade*. This new policy decriminalizes killing a child even up until birth if the little one has a condition a doctor thinks will cause death soon after being born. It calls it OK to abort a baby throughout pregnancy if the doctor believes carrying to term threatens the mother's life or health. Other jurisdictions have stretched such "mother's health" provisions to include simply her comfort or preference. (Caesarean section surgeries at 24 weeks or later are quicker and safer for both mother and child than any abortion. Premature infants as young as 22 weeks regularly survive without complications, and thousands of mothers undergo successful C-sections every day.) The regulation deletes a previous law that required medical care for any child born alive after a failed abortion—and it invites facility staff who are not doctors to carry out abortions.

New York's senate applauded. The governor directed turning the spire of One World Trade Center pink to "celebrate." Our country's fourth-most populated state already has an abortion rate almost twice (23.1 per 1,000 women) the national average (11.8 per 1,000). In the largest U.S. city, New York City, 78% of abortions involve black Americans, and more black babies are aborted than born there. Where our nation's most treasured landmark announces "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free," the leaders and laws have abandoned women and children. The human community ought to protect and support them, especially because bringing forth the great gifts of life and future leaves them vulnerable. Instead, a sex-obsessed culture has sentenced them to desertion and death.

Nevertheless, our courage does not wane. Our compassion only swells. The Gospel of Jesus Christ proclaims that our Almighty Maker creates, redeems, and calls every member of the human race to be His precious treasure forever. This Heavenly Father



Where our nation's most treasured landmark announces "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free," the leaders and laws have abandoned women and children.

gives our whole species its sanctity and significance, and no one's age, appearance, experience, ability, or history can improve or impair it. We celebrate our Savior's crucifixion to forgive sins and His resurrection to defeat death. And we commit ourselves to receive especially the least of these as special privileges.

Dear neighbors of New York, we see you. However afraid or alone you feel, the people of Lutherans For Life hear your cries and pleas. No matter how ashamed you are, the Christian Church that is the Lord's own body loves you. You don't have to surrender to the devil's deception that death be used as a solution to difficulties.

We are going to continue to marshal all the resources within our reach to preserve and embrace you from the womb until the tomb. We vow to come alongside you, carry your crosses, share your sorrows, suffer and labor together. We offer our individual and united voices to advocate for your well-being—not only immediately, but eternally. We open our hearts, our hands, and our homes to share life abundantly with you the way our Lord does. We pledge never to cease or weaken in assuring and enacting for you the joy and hope and purpose that Jesus Christ imparts to each human life. And even should all the laws of this land or any other decree human beings as objects to be used and disposed, He has guaranteed that the faith and fellowship that His truth and love set in motion among us will render them entirely obsolete.



The same week we heard the horrible news from New York, we received a wonderful, life-affirming video and song, called “Together Beat Our Hearts,” from The Mustard Seeds, a band based in Co. Wexford, Ireland. The song was performed at the March for Life UK in May 2018. Rev. Salemink commented, “Not just touching, but ingenious. This is how you respond to panic with compassion. Gospel-motivated.” The video highlights how children SHOULD be treated. Watch the video on our website: www.lutheransforlife.org/sermon/together-beat-our-hearts

A Better Way

by Pastor Scott Licht, National Director of Lutherans For Life

“Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” (James 3:13-18)

You’ve all seen it. The misguided pro-life zealot who blew up the abortion clinic. The “anti-abortion extremist” who shot and killed the doctor who performs abortions. The members of the church blocking funeral processions for members of the armed forces who gave their lives in service to our country—because the military allows homosexual men and women to serve. The rancorous protests and vicious rhetoric when “physician-assisted suicide” is debated.

God, through James’s hand, has a message for those who let their emotions and their own reason take control. Love for God and your neighbor demands a better way of getting your point across. **“By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom” (James 3:13b).** That wisdom is described thus: **“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere” (James 3:17).**

OK, but sex out of wedlock is wrong. Abortion is wrong. Physician-assisted suicide is wrong. I can’t condone those things, so what am I supposed to do?

When word gets out that an unmarried woman in your area is pregnant, what do you do? Do you call the person in town who knows all “the news” to find out about the father? Do you ignore her in the grocery store? Do you ascribe to her all of the demeaning names and adjectives that society uses? Or do you recognize the fact that she sinned, just as we all have MANY times? Her sin may be more visible and may have different consequences, but it’s no more grievous than our sins. That sin is just as forgiven as ours. Why not offer to help her in whatever way she might need? Drive her to a doctor appointment, throw a baby shower for her, offer to pick up groceries for her, LOVE her. She is carrying a child of God regardless of how that child was conceived.



A friend confides in you that he paid for his girlfriend to have an abortion 10 years ago—what do you do? Remind him that he was an accessory to the murder of his own child? Vow never to talk to him because you would never do “THAT”? Tell everyone else you know to avoid him? Or do you sit and listen, offering comfort and assurance of God’s forgiveness for that sin? Offer him the number for the **Word of Hope** counseling service (888.217.8679; word-of-hope.org), find a local support group for post-abortive men, share Scripture with him regarding God’s unconditional love, pray with him.

An 82-year-old gentleman whose wife died a year ago just found out that he has Alzheimer’s disease. He’s going to lose his driver’s license. He’ll have to move after the last time that he forgot to turn off the stove and nearly set his house on fire. Soon he may need help brushing his teeth, going to the bathroom, and getting dressed. He is sure that he is going to be such a burden on his children, and when they do come



to see him, he probably won’t even remember who they are or that they came to see him. Couldn’t his doctor just give him a pill to end it all? If his regular doctor won’t do it, couldn’t he keep looking until he finds one who will? What do you do? Perhaps you could offer to pick him up and bring him to church each week. You could arrange for his friends to visit with him throughout the week. You could stop by to visit and sing some of his favorite hymns (or other songs) with him. You could be patient when he tells you the same thing five times within five minutes. You could just be there for him, reminding him you care and you will always care.

“By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom” (James 3:13). Remember, “meekness” is NOT “weakness.” In the scenarios above, the “meek” actions were often more difficult and required more “strength” than following the ways of the world. Those things are certainly more difficult than doing nothing. But James also tells us that **“a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace”** (v. 18). Notice that James doesn’t say that our actions are the cause of our righteousness—that has been won for us by Christ. We are merely to sow in peace in order to benefit from that harvest of righteousness.

Prayer: Gracious Father, we give You thanks and praise for the gifts which You have given us. Help us to share those gifts with people who are dealing with life issues—even if it means stepping outside of our comfort zone. Let us always remember Your urging to sow in peace as we share Your love and forgiveness, reflecting the love and forgiveness that You extend to us. Amen.

Action: As this New Year begins and you make resolutions of things to do for yourself, consider ways in which you could spend one hour a week helping someone in need—at a crisis pregnancy center, a hospice house, a nursing home, etc.

Lutherans For Life at the 2019 March for Life

Lutherans from around the country came together in Washington, D.C., on January 18 for the 2019 March for Life. Deaconess Rachel Geraci, mission and ministry director for Lutherans For Life, met a Lutheran high school student who was attending the March for the first time. He told Rachel he came to the March thinking he would have the opportunity to debate with the opposition as he appreciates a good debate. However, he realized soon after the March began that this was as much a celebration of life as it was a protest against abortion. Although it wasn't what he was expecting, this student realized how wonderful it is when people can come together in such a positive manner.

This was the fifth March for Life for LFL Executive Director, Rev. Michael W. Salemink. He said, "I'm always moved by the fellowship, the joy and hope, the courage and compassion. My parents and my son came along and especially enjoyed the Lutheran witness of hymns, creeds, and prayers to proclaim how precious every human life is to our God and Father. And there were plenty of participants younger than my son as well as older than my parents. They all demonstrated genuine love, and the enemy has no answer for that."





Scenes from the 2019 March for Life

(l) March for Life 2019, Washington, D.C.; (above) LFL and EyesofLife.org; (below) Salemink Selfies! (l-r) with LCMS President Matthew Harrison on the stage of the March for Life rally; with Abby Johnson of And Then There Were None; with Reagan, who was featured in the official March for Life video "Unique From Day One" (find it at www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPiUKvtF2T0)





MARCH *for* LIFE

The next March for Life ...

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2020

Lutherans For Life will be there!

marchforlife.org

www.lutheransforlife.org/event/1280253-2020-01-24-march-for-life-2020



Laura is stepping down from her position as director of **Y4Life** at the end of the year, so we're looking for a new director to start this summer to ease the transition. The application can be found at:

www.lutheransforlife.org/about/lfl-job-board



ESTATE PLANNING – For advice on estate planning that can help you and Lutherans For Life, contact Jim Schroeder, Christian Estate Planning Counselor. Jim can provide you with personal assistance in working with your attorney and your other financial advisors in planning your estate. Contact Jim at 515.490.7371 or jim@iowadistrictwest.org.



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

www.realestateforlife.org

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

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

- www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife
- <https://twitter.com/ForLifers>
- www.instagram.com/lfl4life



Also see:

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



LAMBs – Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets

Through the craftiness of some LFLers in Ohio, along with the Miami Valley Life Chapter, a new project entitled “LAMBs” (Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets) has been created. Although our world might tell us otherwise, children truly are a blessing. Therefore, Lutherans For Life would like to celebrate children, especially those families with a lot of them!

We would like to celebrate families that are awaiting the birth of their fourth or more child by gifting them with a homemade blanket. Do you know such a family in your Lutheran church? If so, please contact Rachel Geraci, our mission and ministry director, at rgeraci@lutheransforlife.org so that she can arrange for this gift to be sent to them. (Alternatively, you can fill out the form below and send it to Carol Houtler of the Miami Valley Life Chapter.)

Thank you for helping us care for your neighbor in this way!

“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward” (Psalm 127:3).

LAMBs – Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets

Do you know a family in your congregation who is having its fourth or more child? Wouldn't it be nice to gift them with a homemade blanket in celebration of this new life? Simply by filling out this form, Lutherans For Life, the Miami Valley Life Chapter, and other Lutherans from the state of Ohio will ensure that a blanket made with love will be sent directly to this expectant mother anywhere within the continental United States. There are no strings attached. As the Body of Christ, we want to use this as an opportunity to share the mercy that our Savior Jesus Christ first showed us on the cross.

Your Name: _____

Your Congregation: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Mother's & Father's Names: _____

Baby's Gender: Boy ____ Girl ____

Mother's Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Please send completed forms to: Carol Houtler/Miami Valley Life Chapter
7163 Pugliese Place
Dayton, OH 45415-1207



“He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms” (Isaiah 40:11a).

2019 Lutherans For Life Regional Conferences

“Did God Really Say ... ?”

www.lutheransforlife.org/conference

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

Joppa, Maryland

Trinity Lutheran Church – October 19, 2019

San Francisco, California

West Portal Lutheran Church – November 16, 2019



Online Registration is Open!

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

Lutherans For Life ...

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

Lutherans For Life ...

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

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

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

Equips local congregations to speak out on life issues in their communities through Life Chapters and Life Teams. Many Lutherans For Life State Federations and Life Chapters also support a variety of compassionate, caring pregnancy and post-abortion ministries that offer pre- and post-natal counseling, parenting skills workshops, and lifestyle counsel.

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.

National LFL Board of Directors

Lynette Auch, President – Lesterville, South Dakota
Rev. Everette Greene, Vice President – Cincinnati, Ohio
Sheila Page, DO, Secretary – Aledo, Texas
Ronald L. Soule, Treasurer – Mason, Michigan
Diane Albers, State Representative – St. Louis, Missouri
Rev. Chris Brademeyer, State Representative – Oakes, North Dakota
Rev. Dr. Dennis Di Mauro – Herndon, Virginia
Rev. Jeff Duncan – Bellevue, Nebraska
Col. John Eidsmoe – Pike Road, Alabama
Renee Gibbs – St. Louis, Missouri
Bethany Campbell – Champaign, Illinois
Hilary Haak – St. Louis, Missouri
Stephenie Hovland – Portage, Wisconsin
Deaconess Tiffany Manor – New Hartford, Connecticut
Rev. Charles St-Onge – Deux-Montagnes, Quebec, Canada

LFL Council of State Federation Presidents

Rev. David M. Bottorff, Illinois – Bourbonnais
Rev. James Beversdorf, Indiana – Valparaiso
Rev. Rich Salcido, Iowa – Ida Grove
Jeanne Mackay, Kansas – Lenexa
Rev. Paul Clark, Michigan – Fowler
Diane Albers, Missouri – St. Louis
Helen Lewis, Montana – Great Falls
Bob Saeger, Nebraska – Waco
Rev. Chris Brademeyer, North Dakota – Oakes
Jill Johnsen, South Dakota – Wessington
Paula Oldenburg, Wisconsin – Rhinelander

LifeDate

Lutherans
For Life

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit 146



Like and follow us on ...

facebook

twitter