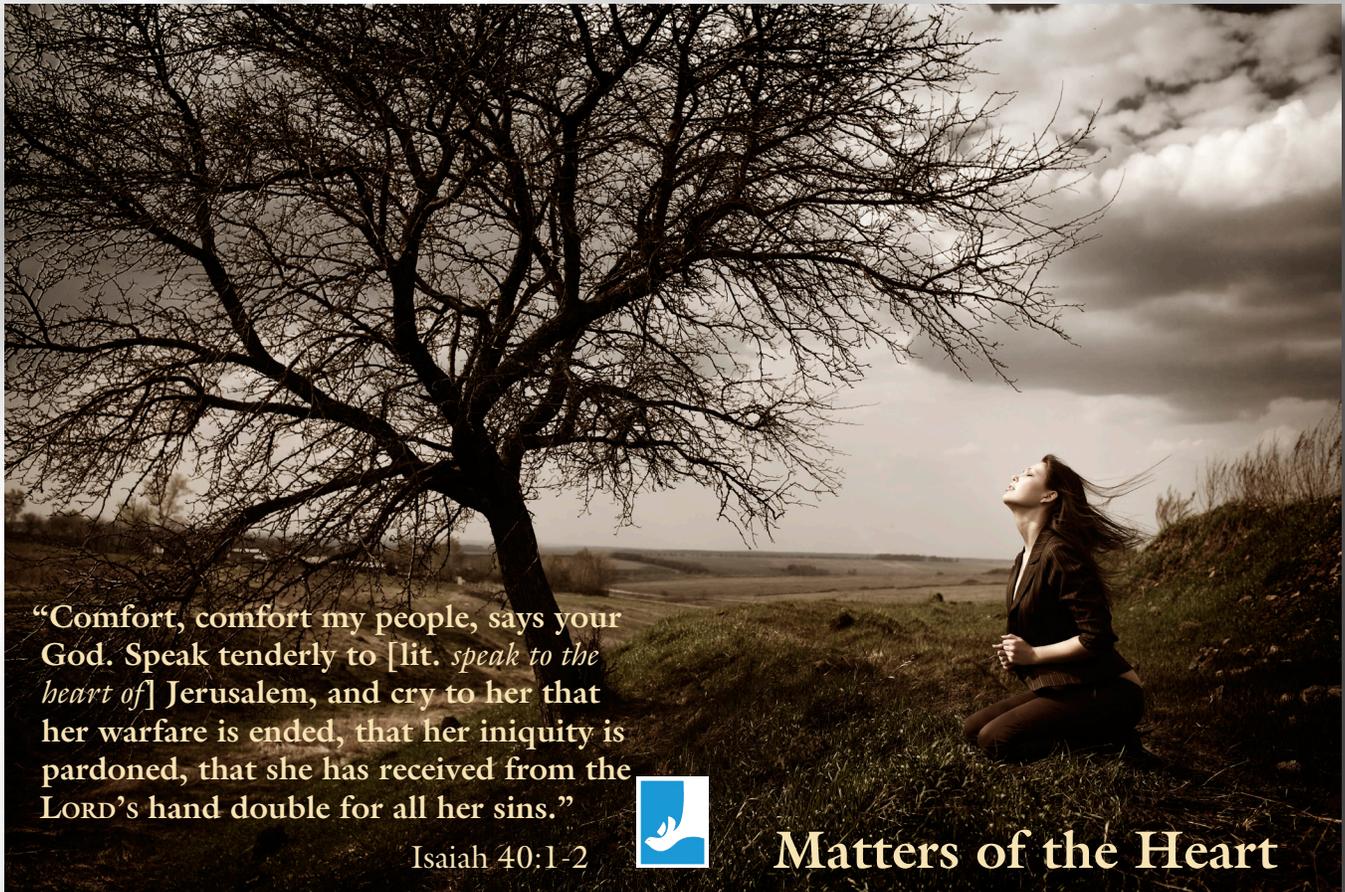


Lutherans For **Life** • 2015 Annual Report



Matters of the Heart by LFL President Lynette Auch



Matters of the Heart can take many paths. Some can bring great joy, others great sadness. Whether the matter is marriage, family or relationships, caring for special needs or chronically ill family members, infertility, miscarriage, abortion, death, singleness, or sexual purity, God’s Word has much to say.



God’s grace is evident in His Word to us: **“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it”** (Isaiah 55:10-11 NIV).

Though the rain and snow of tribulation in this life is allowed to come upon us, God’s Word is profoundly refreshing, life-giving, and powerful enough to accomplish His will for our lives. As the ministry of Lutherans For Life speaks life-affirming words in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to this culture of death, God’s purpose will be achieved.

God’s Word speaks to the matters of the heart that fill our day. **“Your Word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path”** (Psalm 119:105 NIV). God’s Word always accomplishes the purpose for which it was sent and stands as the only certain guide we have as we journey on the paths of this life.

On the path, with you, serving the Lord of Life!

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They get labeled “political” and “social” and “moral,” but the reality is that the life issues are **Matters of the Heart**. They are spiritual issues that touch people’s hearts and souls. That is why the Church is compelled to address these issues because we have what it takes to speak to spiritual issues—the Gospel of Jesus Christ! The Gospel is the most powerful and positive life-affirming message in the universe. It is tailor-made for **Matters of the Heart**. Our 2015 theme focused on increasing this understanding among God’s people and equipping them with resources and ideas for education and action in dealing with **Matters of the Heart** in their congregations and communities. Here are some highlights from 2015.

Thank You to Dr. Lamb

On December 31, 2015, Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb officially retired as executive director of Lutherans For Life—a position he had held since April of 1996. In the winter 2015 edition of LifeDate, Dr. Lamb wrote, “For nearly 20 years since, God has been leading and directing the steps of Lutherans For Life, and I have been doing my best to keep up. Much has changed. God led LFL from Benton, Arkansas, to Nevada, Iowa. He led LFL from a staff of two to the present staff of 12. As I recall, the budget in 1996 was measured in the thousands. The proposed budget for 2016 exceeds one million for the first time. God has consistently provided committed people to support the ministry of LFL year after year. God led LFL from producing a few good brochures to the production of hundreds of high-quality brochures and booklets. He has enabled us to produce a variety of curricula, DVDs, a well-respected website and downloadable resources, and He has paved the way for the use of modern communication technology, including a variety of social media ... I retire ... thanking God for leading and directing the steps of LFL. I thank God for all of you faithful readers and supporters.” We thank Dr. Lamb for his many years of faithful service.

Welcome to Rev. Michael Salemink

At the 2015 Lutherans For Life National Conference, Rev. Michael W. Salemink was installed as the new executive director of Lutherans For Life. Rev. Salemink began serving as executive director-elect of Lutherans For Life in August 2015. Prior to accepting this call, he served as associate pastor of St. James Lutheran Church and School in Lafayette, Indiana (2005-2015). Pastor Salemink and his wife, Heather, have been

married since 2000 and reside in St. Louis, Missouri, where they attend Immanuel Lutheran Church, Olivette, with their three sons: Christian, Nathan, and Luke. Pastor Salemink says, “My work is my passion, and my responsibility is my privilege. As Executive Director of Lutherans for Life, I get to speak truth, especially in controversy, and show love, especially in crisis ... For about the last five years, I was active with our local pregnancy resource center as a board member, relationship counselor, fatherhood mentor, and abstinence educator. Now I and my family gladly offer our experiences and abilities to serve alongside you because the Gospel is not just a movement or an institution but a Person, and Lutherans for Life is not simply a message or a cause but relationships.”

New Resources

New resources in 2015: **Matters of the Heart** Life Sunday materials (bulletin insert, *Just For Kids* insert, sermons, and service); updated versions of our *Not Alone* and *No More Weeping* booklets and *Parental Pondering of Purity, Mystery, and Modesty* brochure by Linda Bartlett; 2015 LFL National Conference audio and video. *Life News* continues to be offered monthly as a free downloadable PDF.

Word of Hope



LFL’s post-abortion ministry, **Word of Hope**, continues to grow under the umbrella of Lutherans For Life. **Word of Hope** is the only Lutheran post-abortion helpline in existence. With nearly 300 calls each month, **Word of Hope** has many opportunities to share the compassion of Christ. Grace Kern, director of Word of Hope, reports, “Our hotline has always gotten busy during the election season because of the topic of abortion. With the added exposure of Planned Parenthood and the news that they are selling body parts, our hotline has been extremely busy.” (www.word-of-hope.org; 630.990.0909)

Mission and Ministry

Lori Trinche, Mission & Ministry Coordinator, reports: “We were very blessed with more new Life Teams getting underway in 2015 ... Some of our leaders are now at a stage where they are mentoring other new teams! We ended the year with 11 State Federations, two regional directors (adding Barb Geisfeld in Texas), 102

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

Life Teams, 116 Life Chapters, and 136 Life Ministry Coordinators. Thanks be to God and to Him be the glory! Thank you to all of our Frontline volunteers and supporters. You are making a difference!” Lori continues to build relationships with LCMS District Life Coordinators and other rostered church workers and is expanding our congregational outreach, serving as an advisory resource to two district life issues task forces. She helped develop and encourage regional leadership events in 2015 with LFL of Michigan and with LFL of Illinois, hosted a Life Chapter and Life Team Summit at the LFL National Conference in October that had over 100 attendees from 13 states—many new to LFL, and moderates a Facebook group for Life Chapters and Life Teams that now has over 70 members.

Y4Life



Y4Life continues to grow and expand to reach more Lutheran youth and young adults and provide them with the tools they need to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. In 2015, we continued to equip student leaders through the **Y4Life** Campus Ministry Program, including working with students to start new groups at Concordia Texas and Concordia New York, as well as a new high school group in Missouri. This program is designed to start and mentor student-led, life-affirming ministries on Lutheran high school and college campuses. In addition to campus ministry, **Y4Life** also expanded the servant event program, working with the Missouri District LCMS to host a week-long servant event in the St. Louis area, as well as hosting events in Texas and Florida. The servant event in Florida was highlighted in a special feature in the *Reporter*, an LCMS publication. Please continue to pray for the student leaders across the country who are working to speak for life every day in their schools and communities.

What People Are Saying

In his 2015 Christmas letter, former Lutherans For Life Executive Director Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb shared quotes from people he had met over the years. Dr. Lamb wrote the comments “have been repeated many, many times”:

“After hearing you, we too will never take life for granted but recognize it as a precious gift from God.”
(from a Lutheran school teacher)

“My baby is alive today because of you.”

“Holding those babies in high school helped me make good decisions in college.”

“I now understand that I am Jesus to those who serve me.” (from a nursing home resident)

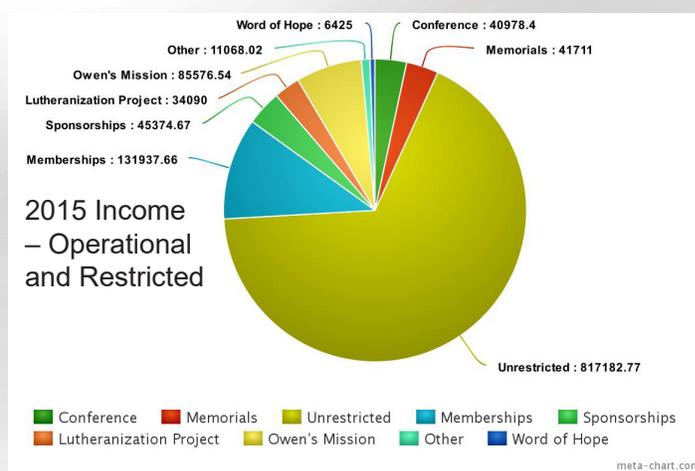
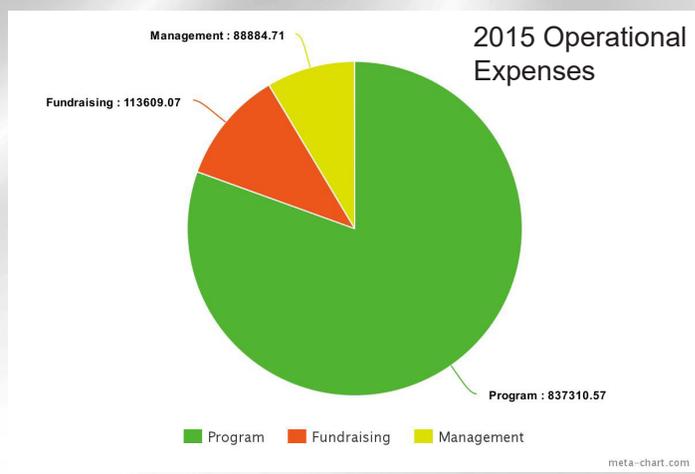
Thank You

Thank you for your ongoing and often sacrificial support of Lutherans For Life during 2015. Your prayers, volunteer efforts, and financial support allow LFL to continue to equip Gospel-motivated voices For Life! You are examples of Christ’s love in action. Your partnership with LFL is needed today more than ever before!

Actual Income & Expenses for 2012, 2013, and 2014

2012 Income	\$912,169	Expenses	\$933,312
2013 Income	\$932,487	Expenses	\$950,735
2014 Income	\$989,357	Expenses	\$940,766

Beginning with this annual report for 2015, we will show income and expenses by both operational and restricted amounts. In previous reports, we grouped operational and restricted income and expenses together. Please contact us if you have any questions.



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



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2015 Annual Report

Find out how your much-appreciated gifts and support helped LFL equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

Your prayers and financial support are important to us!

www.lutheransforlife.org/give

Lutherans For Life is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and does not receive funds from a specific church body. LFL strives to network pastors and lay people to make a positive difference in people's lives. By the power of the Holy Spirit, LFL seeks to change hearts and minds through the Word of God.

National Lutherans For Life

LFL Council of State Federation Presidents

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

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Lynette Auch, *President*, Lesterville, South Dakota
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Keith Alabach, *State Representative*, Marion, Indiana

Diane Albers, *State Representative*, St. Louis, Missouri
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John Eidsmoe, Pike Road, Alabama
Renee Gibbs, St. Louis, Missouri
Stephenie Hovland, Portage, Wisconsin
Dcs. Tiffany Manor, New Hartford, Connecticut
Paula Oldenburg, *State Representative*, Rhinelander, Wisconsin
Dr. Sheila Page, Aledo, Texas
Rev. Charles St-Onge, Deux Montagnes, Quebec, Canada

National LFL Office Staff

Rev. Michael W. Salemink – *Executive Director*
Scott Licht – *National Director*
John Hawkins – *Director of Development*
Lowell J. Highby – *Director of Communications*
Lori Trinche – *Mission & Ministry Coordinator*
Laura Davis – *Director of Y4Life*
Jerilyn Richard – *Data Analyst*
Kim Nessa – *Accountant*

Debra Freese – *Office Clerk*
Katie Friedrich – *Office Assistant*
Virginia Flo – *Regional Director & National Conference Director* (Minnesota)
Dr. Barbara Geistfeld – *Regional Director* (Texas)

Lutherans For Life Outreach Team

Grace Kern, Word of Hope, Oak Brook, Illinois
Dennis Di Mauro, National Pro-Life Religious Council Representative, Herndon, Virginia
Rev. Don Richman, International Representative, Bloomington, Minnesota

Our Philosophy . . . Lutherans For Life believes that the Church is compelled by God's Word to speak and act on behalf of those who are vulnerable and defenseless. The crisis of our times is the repudiation of biblical truth manifested in the wanton destruction of innocent human life through legalized abortion-on-demand and the growing threat to the lives of others through legalized assisted suicide and euthanasia. Therefore, as Lutherans For Life, we will strive to give witness, from a biblical perspective, to the Church and society on these and other related issues such as chastity, post-abortion healing, and family living.