

# CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT MANUAL

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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT...**

## FROM THE DIRECTOR...

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Welcome to the front lines! You are what Lutherans For Life is all about. I get to sit here in my very comfortable executive director's chair, surrounded by a friendly staff who occasionally allows me to say something that makes me feel important! You, however, are headed to where the battle **For Life** really is. Things will not always be comfortable or necessarily friendly. But you will be doing things that will be of vital importance. You will be doing things that will make a difference in your congregations and communities. As you prepare to organize as a chapter, allow me to offer some words of encouragement.

### **You Are Not Alone**

One of the common things we hear from chapters is, "We don't seem to be doing very much. We are so few in numbers." This is one of the frustrations you may encounter. It is good, therefore, to keep in mind that you are going to be part of a network of chapters all across the country. Collectively we are many. When all the "little" things that chapters do are put together, a great deal is happening. When Jesus said, "You are the light of the world," He was not talking to individuals. "You" is plural in that sentence. The Bible talks about Christians being "children of light" and "sons of light" and "people of light." There is no mention of a child of light or a son of light or a person of light! Add to this the promise of Him who is The Light of the world, "I am with you always," and you can be doubly assured, you are not alone!

### **You Have the Most Powerful Weapon**

*"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).* As you organize your chapter and begin planning your activities, always have before you the mission of Lutherans For Life; **"to witness to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God."** It is the Word of God that changes hearts, and thus influences and changes people and societies. It is the Word of God that moves people to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves and to serve those who cannot help themselves. It is the Word of God that that can bring forgiveness and hope to those despairing over their sins.

### **The Victory Has Been Won**

We live in a fallen world, but a world that has been redeemed by Christ who is risen in victory over sin and death and the devil. As you head to the front lines joining thousands of others and wielding the "Sword of the Spirit," you need not be concerned about seeming set backs or feeling like nothing is being accomplished. The victory is assured! It has already been won!

Thank you for all you are doing and will do. God will bless your efforts.

Your servant For Life,

James I. Lamb  
Executive Director

# LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

## THE MISSION STATEMENT OF LUTHERANS FOR LIFE (ADOPTED IN 1997)

“The Mission of Lutherans For Life is to witness to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God.”

### FIVE CORE VALUES OF OUR MINISTRY TOGETHER

- I. God's Word informs and God's Spirit empowers our work and witness. (2 Timothy, 3:16,17; 2 Corinthians 5:14)
- II. Faithfulness to Biblical truth and integrity of witness are more valuable than political expediency. (1 Corinthians 4:1-5)
- III. Respond to life issues with the mind of Christ; prayerfully with humility, compassion, selflessness, speaking the truth in love. (Philippians 2:1-8; 2 Timothy 2:24-26)
- IV. Education remains our focus, trusting the Holy Spirit to change hearts and minds. (2 Timothy 2:24-26)
- V. We uphold the sanctity of human life because all people are created and redeemed by God who intends they bear His image for time and for eternity. (John 10:10)

### STATEMENT OF 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.

*(Revised and Adopted by the Board of Directors, February 1, 1992)*

## ***CORPORATE GOALS***

1. Educate members of the Lutheran Church from a Biblical perspective on the life issues, promoting the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.
2. Witness to our communities the value of each human individual as known in the creative and redemptive work of Jesus Christ while opposing abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide and euthanasia as rebellion against God.
3. Support ministry to those experiencing a crisis pregnancy; guilt or grief following an abortion; and those who are ill, elderly, comatose, or those who have disabilities.
4. Urge leaders in the Church to exercise a prophetic role in opposition to the expanding devaluation of human life, affirming the role of the Church in proclaiming the liberating and soul-transforming Word of Life.
5. Assist individuals and families to live rich, spiritually oriented lives through the teaching of the Biblical virtue of chastity.
6. Affirm faithful, monogamous, heterosexual marriage as essential to the well being of children and the integrity of the family.
7. Share resources and expertise with other Christians, both in the United States and abroad in the pursuit of pro-life efforts.

*(Adopted by the Board of Directors, February 1, 1992)*

## ***STRUCTURE AND RELATIONSHIPS***

A local chapter is a local organization that has been chartered by Lutherans For Life, Inc. The chapter is formally associated with and subject to, but not a part of, the corporation known as Lutherans For Life, Inc.

A state federation is an organization that has been chartered by Lutherans For Life, Inc. in a state where there are at least five chartered chapters. In a state where a state federation exists, the chapters also become affiliated with the state federation. This occurs automatically at the same time a chapter becomes chartered by Lutherans For Life, Inc. These relationships are basically the same whether or not the chapter is incorporated. Thus, Lutherans For Life consists of a network of individual entities formally associated with each other.

Since Lutherans For Life must assume some responsibility for the actions of its chapters and federations, certain standards are maintained for these affiliates. Chapters must meet these standards in order to achieve and maintain affiliate status. Requirements are kept to a minimum so as to allow the most possible creativity and diversity among affiliates.

### **Tax Exempt Status**

National Lutherans For Life, in IRS language, is a “central organization.” When you become a chapter you become an “affiliated subordinate,” again using IRS terms, of National Lutherans For Life. This means you can use the name Lutherans For Life and do things in the name of Lutherans For Life.

However, it does not mean that National’s non-profit, federal tax-exempt status applies to your chapter. If you want to claim federal tax-exempt status and allow contributions made directly to your chapter to be deductible as a charitable gift, then you must apply for your own 501 (c) (3) status. You do not need to be incorporated to do this. A helpful pamphlet if you are interested in becoming a 501 (c) (3) is IRS publication 557, “Tax Exempt Status for Your Organization.” This may be obtained from the IRS by calling 800-829-3676. You may want to wait until your chapter matures before making a decision about tax-exempt status.

### **Federal ID Number**

When opening a checking account or doing other business in the name of Lutherans For Life, you may be asked for a Federal ID Number. You do not need to be incorporated, nor do you need 501 (c) (3) status to obtain this number. It can even be done over the phone! However, another beloved IRS form must be filled out—but it is not complicated! The form is SS-4 and may be obtained by calling 800-829-3676.

### **LFL and Political Involvement**

Lutherans For Life, as any 501 (c) (3), is “absolutely prohibited from political campaigning.” This would include endorsing candidates. While it is true that many LFL chapters are not 501 (c) (3) themselves, because of the affiliation with National, ascending liability is always possible.

501 (c) (3)’s are allowed to lobby—advocate the adoption or rejection of legislation, contacting members of a legislative body, or urging the public to contact members of a legislative body with

respect to legislation—but there is a limit. “No substantial part of the activities of a qualifying organization may consist of attempting to influence legislation.” A Lutherans For Life chapter can, for example, write a letter lobbying for defeat of a state assisted-suicide law. They can discuss the positions of candidates on public issues. However, the majority of their activities need to be focused on educational and service activities. More details about the “do’s” and “don’ts” of 501(c)(3) organizations may be obtained from the national office.

It is important for Christian citizens to be involved in the political process of a democracy. It is our responsibility to inform ourselves about a candidate's position on life and family issues and to elect godly, moral leaders. But the mission of Lutherans For Life is to witness to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God. Our call is to use the Word of God to educate and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, change hearts, and inspire ourselves and others into service. That service may be in a pregnancy care center, in hospice care, teaching children...or in a government-related position.

### ***A BRIEF HISTORY OF LUTHERANS FOR LIFE***

**Lutherans For Life** began as a personal dream of Dr. C. Jack Eichhorst. His efforts to make that dream a reality began in 1976 when Jean Garton, Robert Jensen, Leigh Jordahl, Sam Nafzger, Richard Neuhaus, and Michael Rogness agreed to meet with him to *“explore common concerns about human life issues with a view to organizing a pan-Lutheran group to deal with them.”* Through the efforts of Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, Rev. Sam Nafzger, and Dr. J.A.O. Preus (LCMS President), 17 people attended a meeting in St. Louis on May 24, 1977. As a result, a committee consisting of Jack Eichhorst (ALC Theologian), Jean Garton (LCMS Laywoman), Leigh Jordahl (LCS Professor) and Eugene Linse (LCMS Professor) met at Concordia College, St. Paul, MN, on August 22, 1978, to consider an organizational structure. A name was chosen; a philosophy was adopted; and officers were selected. Garton became President; Eichhorst, Vice-President; Jordahl, Secretary; and Linse, Executive Director.

As its first official act, **Lutherans For Life** sent letters of announcement to the presidents of the American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, the Lutheran Church in America, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church, asking the presidents to urge their members to observe October 1, 1978, as *Respect Life Sunday*, and *“with prayer and meditation express thanks for their own lives and also sadness for the lives of pre-born children that have been terminated because they were unwanted.”*

Lutherans For Life was officially incorporated on April 17, 1979, with its national office located on the campus of Concordia College, St. Paul, MN. At the time of incorporation, Dr. George Muedeking together with the officers comprised the first board of directors. Soon the board included twelve members and, over the years, numerous Lutheran pastors and laypeople faithfully served on the National Board of Directors.

Rev. Edward Fehskens joined the ministry as Executive Director in August of 1985. While he was Executive Director of LFL, the headquarters for the national office relocated, in May of 1991, to Benton, AR, southwest of Little Rock. A structure that housed the “Congo Mercantile” for 63 years was converted into an office as well as living quarters for the director’s family.

From 1992-1996, LFL produced a national radio program on the Jubilee™ network. *Speaking of Life* featured daily commentaries by Dr. Jean Garton.

In 1995 Rev. Fehskens resigned his position as Executive Director to return to full-time parish ministry. During his 10 years of service he helped build a strong network of chapters and federations. At the 1995 convention, Jean Garton was honored for 17 years of service and Linda Bartlett was elected President. The Reverend Dr. James I. Lamb became the new Executive Director in April of 1996. In May of that year, the headquarters relocated to Nevada, IA, north of Des Moines.

Lutherans For Life, Inc. has assisted in the development of Lutherans For Life of Australia and Lutherans For Life of Canada in addition to working with interested pro-life Lutherans in other countries. At the request of a member of the USSR Academy of Sciences in Moscow, LFL provided them with resources on abortion, chastity, and post-abortion healing. In 1996 Lutherans For Life was invited to Romania—at that time the country with the world’s highest abortion rate—to assist in the development of Pro-Vita, a Romanian Christian pro-life group. Since that trip, LFL has supported ro-Vita financially; many LFL brochures have been translated into the Romanian language; and two Caring Pregnancy Centers have developed. Opportunities exist for continued involvement with Pro-Vita.

The Campus Life Project, which seeks to encourage students to become advocates for human life, was launched at Concordia University, Mequon, WI, in September of 1997. Other Concordias, as well as secular colleges, have benefited from this project.

National LFL officially went “on-line” in 1997, providing Christian pro-life resources and timely information by way of a Web Site on the Internet: [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org).

In 1998, Lowell Highby came on staff as the first Director of Media and Development. The intent of this position is to enhance and expand the avenues of outreach of Lutherans For Life and its “For Life” message.

LFL has developed a wide variety of pro-life and family resources. Videos include: *Bearing Burdens* – an honest look at euthanasia, *Family Matters* – an exclusive interview with Dr. James Dobson, *For Life* – explaining the mission, ministry, and Biblical foundation of Lutherans For Life, *Who Broke the Baby?* – based on Dr. Jean Garton’s book of the same name, and *Who Will Speak For Me?* – featuring the music of Amy Grant and Don Wharton. LFL of Missouri received a substantial grant to develop *Celebrate the Life*, a sanctity of human life curriculum available through Concordia Publishing House. LFL chastity materials include *Discovering Real Love*, a packet which enables communities to plan chastity events, and *Dare To Choose*, a 13-lesson curriculum for youth Bible class or Lutheran junior and senior high schools. The educational manual, *Living With Dying*, provides materials on euthanasia, assisted suicide, Living Wills, and other end-of-life issues. Each issue of *Living*, LFL’s magazine (now published annually), features articles, interviews, stories, and regular columns on life topics such as chastity, family living, creation and life issues, post-abortion healing, pro-life choices, euthanasia, and bio-ethics. The quarterly newsletter, *LifeDate*, is sent to LFL members and interested persons nationally and

internationally. *UpDate* is published quarterly for LFL State Federations and local Chapters. *Directions* is published bi-monthly for LFL's Life Ministry Coordinators. *Life Sunday resources*, including sermons and bulletin inserts, are new each year. LFL's *Educational Resource Catalog* offers an assortment of brochures, tracts, Bible studies, curricula, and audiovisuals from the Christian perspective.

Resources for pastors, congregations, and lay people are provided at the national office and in the field through LFL training workshops, Young Mom's retreats, and educational events. *Healing Hearts*, LFL's post-abortion ministry, brings together hurting women with Christian caregivers to help find healing and reconciliation with the Lord. LFL sponsors seminars on various topics, some of which have received credits as part of the continuing education program of Concordia University, River Forest, IL. LFL affiliates have established caring pregnancy centers, post-abortion ministries, and congregational programs that provide supportive services for women, girls, and men confronted with a crisis pregnancy. Lutherans For Life also holds an annual national convention.

LFL co-sponsored two amicus curia ("friend-of-the-court") briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court and continues to educate and motivate Lutheran citizens to be "salt" and "light" in a culture increasingly embracing death as a solution to human problems.

Numerous state Federations and local Chapters exist to serve both individuals and congregations. In addition, participants in LFL's Life Ministry Coordinator program are at work in their congregations. As a grassroots organization which desires to help others live out their faith according to God's will, Lutherans For Life seeks to share Jesus Christ through teaching, caring, and serving.

## **BEGINNING A MINISTRY OF LOVE...**

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Lutherans For Life is a ministry of love, of caring for the least of these...those who cannot speak for themselves: the unborn, people with mental or physical disabilities, the elderly, the comatose or the ill. This ministry of love also extends to persons facing crisis pregnancies and/or who have been affected by an abortion decision.

### **Chapters of Lutherans For Life are:**

- **educational and service-oriented - not political or reactionary.**
- **a movement and not a club.**
- **local in nature and not restricted to certain congregations.**
- **inter-Lutheran - not affiliated with any church body, nor engaging in worship or ministries that are appropriate only to congregations.**
- **the official presence of Lutherans For Life in their communities**

## ***STARTING YOUR MINISTRY***

The following are suggestions on how to organize your chapter. Many people have found these suggestions helpful. However, depending on your circumstances, you will need to decide what will work for you. The goal is to get the message of Lutherans For Life out to your community and congregation. Versatility in your organization is acceptable and may be necessary.

1. Identify a core group - recruit a minimum of two people from more than one congregation if possible
2. Visit with your pastor
3. Schedule planning sessions - time, place, regularity (weekly is recommended while working on becoming chartered)
4. Develop lists of possible contacts - LFL people in your area (the national office and state federation can help)
  - congregations in your area
  - media (newspapers, radio/TV/cable stations)
  - other pro-life organizations
5. Select a leader - may delegate others to work on goals, constitution, contacts, etc.
6. Begin to set goals - areas of activities, for options see pages 14-18
7. Work on a constitution - see Section V, pages 21-28
8. Join Lutherans For Life, Inc.
9. Educate yourself
10. Contact the national office at any time for assistance

## ***THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING***

Devotion

Business:

1. Adopt a constitution
2. Pass resolution to request to become chartered
3. Elect officers

Education Program

Refreshments

Resources: make available LFL membership brochures and catalogues plus a variety of tracts on life issues

Solicit ideas for activities to be planned at a later date: the number and type of activities will vary according to the level of interest and the size of the group - activities should be in the areas of education and service.

## ***GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS***

Following the organizational meeting, the chapter may proceed with the following activities:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Pray for wisdom and guidance as you commit this work to the Lord.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Continue to plan and hold monthly meetings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Set goals (see pages 31-36). You will receive ideas from regular mailings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Continue to expand the contact lists.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Continue to read and educate yourselves.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Begin implementing suggested activities of your group.

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

The following areas may be considered in developing chapter activities. These are only guidelines. Each chapter has its own individual identity within the framework of the national Lutherans For Life mission statement. Not every idea works in every chapter. The way you develop your chapter depends on what works for you, and it may change in time.

### EDUCATION

#### *Events:*

Educational events and activities may be planned to accommodate interests and involvement in your area annually, quarterly, or monthly.

Your chapter may choose to have the executive committee plan events for an entire year.

Events may be incorporated into a regular business meeting or a quarterly or semi-annual event.

#### *Sanctity of Human Life Sunday:*

This is one of the greatest opportunities to carry out the LFL mission of witnessing the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God. Life Sunday is usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in January or the Sunday closest to January 22—the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. **Please understand, however, that it can be observed at any time during the year or more than once during the year!** Other appropriate times may be a Sunday close to March 25<sup>th</sup>, the Annunciation of our Lord, or Mothers or Fathers Day or around December 28, Holy Innocents Day.

National always produces special materials based on a new theme each year—inserts, sermons, Bible studies, worship services, music, etc. You can make your congregation aware of these, offer to order them, pay for them, and stuff them in bulletins. You can plan special events to coincide with Life Sunday—a chastity rally in the afternoon, a diaper drive for a local CPC, guest preachers or speakers, workshops on post-abortion trauma—use your creativity!

#### *Resources:*

Maintaining an inventory of resources is best done by an individual. This also helps to keep cost under control. Contact the national office for a copy of the LFL resource catalog.

Brochures and/or handouts may be available at every business meeting, educational, social action, or fund-raising event. A donation basket may be provided for those who wish to contribute.

All materials should have your chapter name, address, and/or telephone number. You may wish to consider purchasing a stamp or using labels for this purpose.

## FUND-RAISING

Fund raising will probably be a necessity for your chapter. You may need funds for speaker fees, videotapes, precious feet pins, fetal model displays, pro-life literature, et. The challenge is to raise funds in a positive and fun way. Some suggestions are listed below, but the real key is to be creative in your fund raising. Consider offering a needed service or contest as a way to fill your chapter's coffers. Above all else, ask the Lord to bless your efforts and then go out and ask others to financially support your efforts. As the Lord says, "You do not have because you do not ask."

### *Ideas for fund raising:*

- Bake sales
- Cup of Coffee on Sunday mornings
- Sponsor a play
- Host a chili contest-spaghetti night
- Sell pro-life items such as Christmas cards, bumper stickers, T-shirts, pins, etc.
- Sell precious feet and/or precious hands pins
- Mother's Day corsages
- Rummage sale, garage sale, craft sale
- Congregational offering on Life Sunday
- Ask to be an item in the congregational budget
- Telephone solicitation
- Pro-life/Christian book sale
- Contest - crawling, rocking chair, volleyball, etc. (be creative)
- See "Matching Funds" from Lutheran Brotherhood and AAL
- Walk for Life - get donations
- Baby photo contest

## MEMBERSHIP

Members are the organization. Someone from your congregation with "people" skills should be designated to make new people feel welcome and current members feel important. Here are suggestions to help:

- Each person who joins may be given a pair of "Precious Feet."
- Maintain an up-to-date roster (list with names, addresses and phone numbers) of chapter members.
- Set up a welcome table near the door at each meeting - have **everyone** sign the attendance sheet with his/her name, address, and telephone number - guests will not feel awkward if everyone signs the list and it serves as an attendance sheet.
- Have nametags at every meeting - this helps everyone become better acquainted more quickly and with less stress.
- Encourage recruitment of new members for your chapter.

- Encourage membership in Lutherans For Life, Inc. - you may request a computer printout of active LFL members in your area from the national office - provide a list of pertinent zip codes with your request.
- Encourage each congregation represented by your chapter to identify a Life
- Ministry Coordinator or a liaison to promote Lutherans For Life within the congregation

## **PUBLICITY**

“If you build it they will come.” A variation of that line could also apply to publicity, “If you tell them what is happening they will be there.”

There are no sure-fire guarantees of course, but we do know that if people do not hear about your meeting or event they will not “be there.”

Good publicity is essential in getting out our “For Life” message. In advertising, repetition is a key to success. When publicizing chapter meetings and other events use a variety of media to “get the word out.”

Among the possibilities:

- Place bulletin announcements and bulletin inserts in congregational bulletins.
- Send chapter newsletters and press releases to area churches and area newspapers, radio stations, local cable access channels, and television stations.
- Send Calendar of Chapter/Pro-Life events to chapter members and other interested pro- life people.
- Give a brief presentation before or after worship services or during Sunday School on chapter events or other pro-life activity.
- Put local media on the *LifeDate* mailing list.
- Sponsor a life ad in your local newspaper or on your local radio/TV station(s).
- Record a public service announcement for a local radio or TV station on Lutherans For Life and/or life issues—a sample script is available from national LFL.

### **Press Releases:**

*Always include in your press releases...*

Exact time and date of the press release.

Name and telephone number of a contact person. Make it easy for someone to find out more.

Headline.

Keep in mind the old rule of “Who, What, Where, When, Why, (and sometimes “How”).” Include all relevant details.

Always type the press release and double space. Never use more than two pages.

*When to send a release...*

- Meetings (tell what is coming up at your next meeting), seminars, notable speakers, conventions.
- Announcement of new resources.
- Commentary on life issues. Relate a national story to local events.
- Election of LFL Chapter officers.
- Formation of new groups or committees in your chapter.
- Awards.
- Anniversary.

When sending press releases, keep deadlines in mind. Your press release is one of dozens received each day.

Always be friendly, courteous, and helpful when dealing with the media.

Sample news releases are in most business writing books, easily available in most bookstores.

## **SOCIAL**

Social action goals are very important to a chapter. It is the way that we put our education into practice.

*Your chapter may want to:*

- Work very closely with a crisis pregnancy center or other social agency in your area.
- Collect baby clothes, diapers, formula, money, etc. for that particular agency.
- Research local, community and congregational needs and find out how your chapter can help fulfill these needs.
- Keep informed of proposed legislation and contact your federal and state legislators to express your opinions.

## **SPIRITUAL**

*“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12).*

Lutherans For Life is unique among many of the pro-life groups. We clearly recognize that this is a spiritual struggle in which we are engaged. Therefore it takes spiritual weapons.

*“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand... Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God” (Ephesians 6:13 & 17).*

Remember our mission statement? “The mission of Lutherans For Life is to witness to the sanctity of human life through education **based on the Word of God.**” Please always remember the spiritual nature of this battle. Make time for Scripture reading, prayers, and devotions. Ask your spiritual advisor to feed you and equip you through God’s Word. Strive to make Word-based events a priority. Plan Bible studies, prayer vigils, special worship services. Use LFL resources to help people understand that the life issues present opportunities to share the powerful life-changing and healing Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## TIPS FOR LEADERS

### *Working with pastors*

Working with area Lutheran pastors is crucial to the ministry of Lutherans For Life. You will need their support if you hope to work within their congregations. Here are some important ideas:

- Avoid accusing or condemning any past or present action or inaction.
- Never expect the pastor to do your job for you. A pastor's role is to give LFL credibility within the congregation by supporting your work.
- Pastors are very busy people, often over-worked and overwhelmed. If you write a letter and get no response, call him. This lack of response does not necessarily translate into a lack of pro-life agreement.
- Plan a visit with the pastor. Ask for 15-30 minutes of time. Be organized. Ask for usage of the bulletin, newsletter, etc. Offer resources and be a source for pro-life education and materials. Ask how you can help him in his ministry to the congregation and community.
- Be patient. Start small if the pastor seems hesitant. Offer brochures.
- Pray for him.

### *Recruiting volunteers*

- Do not be afraid to ask people who are already busy.
- Look for people who have specific talents for a particular project.
- You need to make personal solicitation. Seldom do people volunteer in a group meeting or via publication in a newsletter.
- Keep meetings to a minimum. People are willing to do things in their homes, but are not always willing to attend meetings.
- Be specific in your request. Make sure you know what the job entails and can successfully convey that information to the individual you are attempting to recruit.
- There are many people who support pro-life work, but do not wish to attend a chapter meeting. Find ways to utilize that support by asking them to bake, mail letters, etc.
- Do not be afraid to ask. The worst they can do is say no. If you fail to recruit either helpers or additional leaders, burn out will result. You cannot do everything.
- Assume everyone wants to help. All you have to do is find out what skills and talents they have to give.

### *Delegation and follow-up*

- All the above apply.
- Your goal as a leader is to have nothing to do, but organize, recruit, encourage, and pray.
- Delegation is an important part of leadership. If the organization is to grow you need to delegate.
- Ask people to assume responsibility. They seldom volunteer. You must ask.

- Give people room to work. It is best not to supply them with all the details of how you want them to do the job. Make sure they understand what you want them to do, but allow them to come up with the how.
- Volunteers need to be allowed to make the project or position their own. Allow them to make decisions. You are not their boss, but a fellow co-worker.
- After you have delegated responsibility, you need to follow through by checking with them periodically as to how things are going. Be gentle, but firm.
- You can encourage them in their tasks by setting time lines for completing, meeting them for lunch, giving suggestions if asked, offering to get them help, etc.
- If the job is not being done, gently offer to find someone else. Sometimes the best of intentions cannot be met.

### *Attitudinal changes*

Lutherans For Life has undergone a lot of changes in its 20 plus years of existence. One change that has been particularly perplexing is the unwillingness of people to attend a meeting of like-minded individuals. The original plan for a chapter meeting was to encourage like-minded people to come together for education, business, refreshments and mutual support. Throughout the years, chapters have become discouraged as the numbers of people willing to do this has continued to decline. Thus, leaders of Lutherans For Life have analyzed this tendency and have suggestions for starting chapters.

- Keep the focus on the Lord. He assures us that if we abide in Him the results will be there.
- We are called to be faithful witnesses, not to be successful. Leave success to God.
- Numbers are not a determining factor of success or failure. Much can be accomplished through few numbers. Look at what the twelve apostles did.
- Be flexible. Remember Lutherans For Life is a movement, not a club. Be versatile. Be willing to adjust to new challenges in your area and churches.
- There is no absolute way to do things. If something does not work, try approaching the problem in another way. Be persistent, yet gentle.
- Focus on doing rather than talking. People want to dig their hands in and be needed. They want to be doers. Sometimes we get in the habit of constantly wringing our hands and complaining instead of using our influence for good.
- Never ask, “Why doesn’t anybody do anything?” You are that anybody.
- Brainstorm wildly, pray and go forth with a flexible plan.

## ***CHECKLIST FOR BECOMING A CHARTERED CHAPTER***

There are four documents that must be submitted in order to become a chartered chapter:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Constitution & By-laws (p. 23-28)**
2. \_\_\_\_\_ **Resolution Statement (p. 29)**
3. \_\_\_\_\_ **Chapter Information Form (p. 30)**
4. \_\_\_\_\_ **Goals for the first year (p. 31)**

**In addition to these four documents, all chapter officers must be active members of Lutherans For Life, Inc.** If the officers are not currently active members (see page 38, Membership Classifications), enclose a completed membership form along with a membership contribution for each officer of your newly formed chapter (see By-laws, Article III, Section 5).

### **STEPS:**

1. Fill in the form on page 22 (type or print). Make a copy of the completed form and mail it to the national office. The national office will print a Constitution and By-laws for you.
2. Type your own Constitution. Everything in **BOLD TYPE** in the model constitution and by-laws (p. 23-28) **MUST BE INCLUDED** as it is written in the models. Any wording that is *not* in bold type may be adapted/revised to meet your needs. Sign the Constitution, By-laws, and Resolution Statement at your Constituting Meeting. Make a copy of each of the four required documents (see above) and mail the copies, with your membership forms and membership contributions, to the national office.

Upon approval, the executive director will charter your chapter and send you a signed certificate of charter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the national office.

**Lutherans For Life  
1120 South G Avenue  
Nevada, IA 50201-2774**

**(888) 364-LIFE or (515) 382-2077  
Fax (515) 382-3020  
info@lutheransforlife.org**

## **CONSTITUTION DIRECTIONS**

The following pages are **model** documents for use by groups that wish to become local chapters of Lutherans For Life, Inc. The model documents are models only and are not intended to be used as the actual chapter documents. The constitution committee should prepare a draft based on these models, but adapted to the needs of their own chapters.

The Constitution is the “instrument” that legally creates an unincorporated association. It should contain only what is essential and unlikely to change over time. Pages 23-25 are a model constitution.

By-laws are those basic rules of operation that should not be easily changeable. They should be no more stringent than necessary so that the chapter is not put in the position of disobeying its own rules. A model set of By-laws follows the Constitution (Pages 26-28).

Everything in **BOLD TYPE** in the model constitution and by-laws (p. 23-28) **MUST BE INCLUDED AS IT IS WRITTEN** in the models.

Any wording that is *not* in bold type may be adapted/revised to meet your needs.

For your convenience you may “fill in the blanks” below which coincide with the numbers in the model Constitution and By-laws, send a copy of this completed page to the national office and a constitution will be printed for you.

1. **CHAPTER NAME** \_\_\_\_\_
2. **ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE** \_\_\_\_\_
3. **DAY, MONTH AND YEAR\*** \_\_\_\_\_
4. **COMMUNITY, COUNTY OR AREA** \_\_\_\_\_
5. **HOW OFTEN** \_\_\_\_\_
6. **DAY AND TIME** \_\_\_\_\_
7. **MONTH** \_\_\_\_\_

\* Select the date you will be signing the printed constitution and by-laws that will be sent to you.

## CONSTITUTION (A MODEL)

OF

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

### PREAMBLE

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 TIME 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 TOGETHER TO GIVE WITNESS, FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE, TO THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY ON THESE AND RELATED ISSUES SUCH AS CHASTITY, POST-ABORTION HEALING, AND FAMILY LIVING.

### ARTICLE I, NAME

The name of this organization shall be (1) \_\_\_\_\_

Lutherans For Life, hereafter referred to as "Chapter".

### ARTICLE II, PURPOSE

1. Educate members of the Lutheran Church from a Biblical perspective on the life issues, promoting the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.
2. Witness to our communities the value of each human individual as known in the creative and redemptive work of Jesus Christ while opposing abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide and euthanasia as rebellion against God.
3. Support ministry to those experiencing an unplanned or crisis pregnancy; guilt or grief following an abortion; and those who are ill, elderly, comatose, or those who have disabilities.
4. Urge leaders in the Church to exercise a prophetic role in opposition to the expanding devaluation of human life, affirming the role of the Church in proclaiming the liberating and soul-transforming Word of Life.
5. Assist individuals and families to live rich, spiritually oriented lives through the teaching of Biblical virtues.
6. Affirm faithful, monogamous, heterosexual marriage as essential to the well being of children and the integrity of the family.

7. **Share resources and expertise with other Christians, both in the United States and abroad in the pursuit of pro-life efforts.**

### **ARTICLE III, AFFILIATION**

**This chapter shall be an affiliate of Lutherans For Life, Inc., a non-profit corporation under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 317 since April 17, 1979. As such, this Chapter shall be subject to the by-laws and policies of Lutherans For Life, Inc., and do nothing contrary to the philosophy, purpose and objectives of Lutherans For Life, Inc.**

(Include this paragraph if you live in CA, IL, IN, IA, MI, MN, MO, MT, NE, ND, OH, SD, TX, WI or the Mid-Atlantic Federation, which includes DE, MD, NJ, NY, VA, and the District of Columbia.) **This chapter shall also and concurrently be an affiliate of (state affiliate), a non-profit corporation under (law)\* since (date)\*, so long as said corporation is and remains an affiliate of Lutherans For Life, Inc. As such, this chapter shall do nothing contrary to the philosophy, purpose, and objectives of (state affiliate).**

\* Contact the national office for this information if you are typing your own constitution.

### **ARTICLE IV, NON-PROFIT STATUS**

1. **This Chapter is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious and scientific purposes as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.**
2. **This Chapter shall not participate in a political campaign for or against any candidate for public office nor devote a substantial part of its activities or resources to influence legislation.**
3. **No part of its net earnings, in any manner or form, shall inure any of its members or officers except for services rendered to the Chapter.**
4. **In the event of dissolution, the entire assets, real and personal, remaining after the payment of any and all liabilities and obligations of the Chapter, shall be distributed exclusively for the purposes of the Chapter and only to organizations as are operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at that time qualify as tax exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue law.**

### **ARTICLE V, NON-DISCRIMINATION**

**The purpose of this Chapter shall be pursued without regard to race, color, gender, or ethnic origin.**

## ARTICLE VI, ADDRESS

The permanent address of this chapter, registered with Lutherans For Life, Inc., shall be:

(2) \_\_\_\_\_.

## ARTICLE VII, DURATION

The duration of this Chapter shall be perpetual.

## ARTICLE VIII, MEMBERSHIP

**Membership in this Chapter shall be as provided in the By-laws of this Chapter and in accordance with the policies of Lutherans For Life, Inc.**

## ARTICLE IX, LIABILITY

No personal liability shall be incurred by any member or officer of this Chapter either for the negligent acts of the Chapter or for those of any agent or employee thereof, nor for the debts or obligations of the Chapter.

## CERTIFICATION

**This constitution has been adopted by a majority vote at a meeting of Lutherans For Life members held on the (3)\_\_\_\_\_ day of (3)\_\_\_\_\_ (3)\_\_\_\_\_ A.D.**

The initial officers of this Chapter are.....

*Print below or on an attached sheet the following information for each office:*

*Name*

*office or title*

*address*

*city, state, zip*

*E-mail address(if available)*

*telephone number*

*signature*

(A MODEL) BY-LAWS OF (1) \_\_\_\_\_ LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

**ARTICLE I, MEMBERSHIP**

**The voting members of this Chapter shall be members at large of Lutherans For Life, Inc., who reside in (4) \_\_\_\_\_.** Persons who are not members at large of Lutherans For Life, Inc., may become non-voting members of the Chapter, providing they subscribe to the purpose and philosophy of Lutherans For Life, Inc.

**ARTICLE II, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Section 1. **Members** - The officers of the Chapter shall be the voting members of the Executive Committee. The chairmen of Standing Committees and the Advisors shall be its non-voting members. If committee chairmen and advisors are elected or approved by the membership, then they may be voting members of the executive committee.

Section 2. **Authority** - The Executive committee shall have full charge of the affairs of the Chapter between meetings of the members of the Chapter. Certain powers may be reserved to the members.

Section 3. **Meetings** - The Executive Committee shall meet (5) \_\_\_\_\_ at a time and place determined by the President. Special meetings may be called by the President or any three of the other members of the Executive Committee. Notice of each regular meeting must be given to all members of the Executive Committee at least one week prior to the meeting. Notice of each special meeting must be given three days in advance.

Section 4. **Quorum** - The quorum for conducting business at meetings of the Executive Committee shall be three, including at least two officers.

**ARTICLE III, OFFICERS**

Section 1. **Offices** - The offices of the Chapter shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2. **Terms** - The terms of office shall be one year, beginning immediately after the annual meeting and continuing until successors are elected.

Section 3. **Nominations** - Nominations may be made to the Membership Chairman at least ten days prior to the annual meeting. They may also be made from the floor, providing the nominees have already agreed to serve if elected and are qualified.

Section 4. **Election** - Elections shall be by secret ballot at the annual meeting. Candidates must receive a majority of votes cast to win.

Section 5. **Qualifications - Officers must be and remain members in good standing of Lutheran congregations and current members at large of Lutherans For Life, Inc.**

#### **ARTICLE IV, DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT** - The President of the Chapter shall preside at all meetings of the voting membership. He/she shall to the best of his/her ability enforce the Constitution and By-laws of the Chapter and carry out the express will of the Chapter as embodied in the resolutions of the voting membership. All Committees and other organizations of the Chapter shall be the concern of the President, and he/she shall be welcome at any and all meetings of such groups either in person or as represented by his/her delegate. To the best of his/her ability, he/she shall attempt to coordinate the efforts of the various committees and programs of the Chapter.

**VICE PRESIDENT** - The Vice President of the Chapter shall act for and in the stead of the President in his/her absence.

**TREASURER** - The Treasurer shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the Chapter and shall receive and disburse all funds. The treasurer shall keep accurate books of accounts recording each receipt and disbursement and shall prepare and submit a written report of the financial condition of the Chapter at each regular meeting.

**SECRETARY** - The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of each meeting of the Chapter and Executive Committee and shall preserve these as a permanent record of the Chapter.

**COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN** - The Committee Chairmen shall be the presiding officers of their respective committees and shall be responsible for the regular meetings of such committees and the carrying out of the committee's programs.

#### **ARTICLE V, ADVISORS**

**The Executive Committee shall appoint a Spiritual Advisor who is a Lutheran Pastor.**

#### **ARTICLE VI, MEETINGS**

**Regular Meetings** - Regular monthly meetings of the Chapter shall be held the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of the month at (6)\_\_\_\_\_ at places selected by the Executive Committee.

**Annual Meeting** - The annual meeting shall be the regular meeting held in (7) \_\_\_\_\_. At this meeting officers shall be elected.

**Special Meetings** - Special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee or any ten of the voting members of the Chapter.

**Notice** - Notice of the annual meetings shall be given in writing to all members at least two weeks prior to that meeting. Notice of special meetings shall be given to all members at least one week prior to such meeting.

**Quorum** - The quorum for conducting business at any meeting shall be one fourth of the voting members.

## **ARTICLE VII, AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. **Constitution** - The Constitution of the Chapter may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members voting at any regular meeting or at any meeting called for that purpose, providing the amendment has been submitted to the membership in writing at or before the time of notice or has been read at the previous regular meeting.

Section 2. **By-laws** - The By-laws may be amended in the same manner as the Constitution.

Section 3. **Approval - Changes in the Constitution and By-Laws must be approved by Lutherans For Life, Inc., and the state affiliate before taking effect.**

### **ADOPTION**

**These By-Laws were adopted by members of (1)\_\_\_\_\_ on the (3)\_\_\_\_\_ day of (3), (3) A.D.**

**RESOLUTION**

**TO REQUEST AFFILIATION WITH LUTHERANS FOR LIFE**

Whereas, we are members of Lutherans For Life, Inc., and of Lutheran congregations in (4) \_\_\_\_\_; and

Whereas, we are greatly concerned for the lives of pre-born, newborn, disabled, and elderly people, and for the application of the Law and Gospel of Jesus Christ to the life issues; and

Whereas, we have sought and will continue to seek the participation of all Lutheran congregations in our community and their members, and we have been meeting for \_\_\_\_\_ months; and

Whereas, we unanimously concur with the purpose and philosophy of Lutherans For Life, Inc., and agree to abide by the policies of Lutherans For Life, Inc., therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that we request to be chartered as a local affiliate of Lutherans For Life, Inc., and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that we will do all of our work in the strength, fear, and joy of the Lord and give Him all glory.

Passed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, A.D

Recording Secretary:

(Signature)

(print name)

***CHAPTER INFORMATION FORM***

**CHAPTER NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY, STATE AND ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**A.** On a separate piece of paper, list the towns and zip codes and the congregations you will be targeting.

**B.** Print or type the name, address, and telephone number of each officer below:

## ***GOAL SHEET***

Groups that wish to affiliate with Lutherans For Life are required to submit a list of their goals for the coming year including plans for recruitment.

There are three reasons for this requirement.

- 1. It assures that these groups will go through this important process.**
- 2. It provides a measure for determining if a group is ready to become affiliated or if it needs more assistance.**
- 3. It contributes to the list of ideas that can be shared with other groups.**

Some areas where goals could be set: education, fund raising, membership, publicity, social action, and spiritual growth.

Lutherans For Life is wholly committed to the credo that God's work done in God's way will have God's support.

**“Be anxious in nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving,  
let your requests be made known to God.” (Philippians 4:6)**

**“And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”  
(Philippians 4:19)**

**“Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think,  
according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ  
Jesus to all generations forever and ever.” (Ephesians 3:20)**

## **GOAL SETTING**

*The questions to ask yourself when formalizing goals:*

- Do we have a pro-life poster or display at our church?
- Are there pro-life brochures in our tract rack?
- Could we put a *Life Quotes* blurb (available from the national office) in our bulletin or pro-life article in our church newsletter?
- Ask the question, “What are we doing to help someone?”
- Are there pro-life materials in our church or public library? Could we donate some?
- Do we know a crisis pregnancy center in our area? If yes, find out what they need, determine whether our congregation could support them financially. Could our congregation make a monthly financial commitment to them? Could we support them with volunteer help? Could we support them with material goods - clothing, office supplies, cleaning items?
- Does our congregation celebrate Life Sunday?
- Are other congregations in our area interested in Lutherans For Life? Could we distribute the LMC brochure to area pastors in order to locate one Life Ministry Coordinator (LMC) for each Lutheran congregation in my area?
- Do we know the other pro-life groups in my area? Could we assemble for pastors and others a resource book with the names of pro-life agencies in my area, along with their address and telephone number? (The resource book might contain LFL and other pro-life brochures, tracts, Bible studies, a catalog, materials, speaker's bureau, etc. The resource book could aid the pastor in counseling or referring those in need of assistance when facing an end of life decision or crisis pregnancy.)
- Could we hold a special event - youth rally, prayer service, euthanasia workshop, etc.?
- Is there a referral program in our congregation such as **A Place of Refuge** for women in a crisis pregnancy?

## ***A GOOD GOAL HAS CERTAIN CHARACTERISTICS:***

**It is meaningful** - it avoids busy work for its own sake.

**It is obtainable** - if it is too difficult, it will frustrate you and destroy motivation.

**It is measurable** - it provides standards to evaluate how well you are doing.

**It contributes** - to the overall direction of the organization.

## ***GOAL SETTING TECHNIQUES***

### **1. WRITE EACH GOAL**

Putting your goal in writing helps to increase your commitment to it and helps identify exactly what you want to accomplish. Phrase your goal as a positive rather than a negative statement.

### **2. WRITE OUT THE STEPS TO COMPLETION**

List what needs to be done. Put the items in the order they should be done. If appropriate, designate a time frame for completion or review. This should be called your Plan of Action.

### **3. EVALUATE YOUR PROGRESS**

Review your accomplishments in the specified time frames and adjust the timing, steps, or expectations as necessary. Be flexible.

### **4. REWARD YOURSELF**

The final step in goal setting techniques is to reward yourself. Remember that the joy of accomplishment is in itself a wonderful reward. Know that the work you are doing is helping to save the lives of the most defenseless of God's creatures. What a blessing!

## ***GOALS***

The following are some examples of goals you may be interested in pursuing. They are categorized by level of difficulty. Difficulty is determined by the amount of effort or manpower required, the support of your pastor, and financial considerations.

## ***SOCIAL ACTION***

- Suggest speakers.
- Provide videos and other resources.
- Participate in a Walk for Life.
- Encourage Sunday/Vacation Bible Schools to purchase pro-life curriculum for use.
- Purchase pro-life bumper stickers to distribute.

- Place barrels in the church to collect new or like-new maternity and baby clothing and baby items for local crisis pregnancy centers.
- Contact your federal and state legislators and express your views with them regarding life issues.
- Encourage others to contact state legislators and express their views.
- Make or buy gifts to hand out at Baptisms.
- Send gift to new moms in churches.
- List what you can do to reach teenagers or encourage High School involvement.
- Explore needs of CPC's and publicize.
- Sponsor parenting classes.
- Observe Life Sunday.
- Raise money for Lutherans For Life or other pro-life organizations.
- Sponsor a chastity seminar/youth rally.
- Determine the medical, social, and pastoral support for prolife outreach in my community.
- Offer help to a single mother, parents of a child with disabilities, or a family facing the death of a loved one.
- Encourage your church to sponsor a pro-life billboard.
- Organize a Walk for Life.

### ***EDUCATIONAL***

- Put monthly information in congregational newsletter.
- Wear pro-life T-shirts.
- Display pro-life stickers.
- Put local media on LifeDate mailing list.
- Utilize the information in the newsletter *UpDate*.
- Provide your pastor with the resource packet available from the national office.
- Run pro-life booths at fairs, rallies, conventions and seminars.
- Locate youth and youth group contacts.
- Put together a pro-life church bulletin board.
- Put weekly scripture or short statement on life issues in weekly bulletin (such as *Life Quotes* from the national office).
- Give list of community pro-life speakers, services and organizations to your pastor.
- Organize a letter writing campaign to local and state newspapers.
- Provide pro-life tracts for the church and tract rack or table.
- Provide educational materials for the church library.
- Provide pro-life programs for the adult education Sunday School hour whenever possible.
- Publish a monthly newspaper article of pro-life activities.
- Promote Life Awareness Week.
- Place a pro-life sign on the church property.
- Promote videos through a monthly mailing.
- Develop a Speakers Bureau.

- Establish a video and materials library.
- Purchase fetal models.

### ***SPIRITUAL LIFE***

- Promote Bible studies (see resource catalog).
- Speak of Christ's forgiveness and the power to live a new life
- “Adopt” an abortionist, Planned Parenthood official or pro-choice legislator and pray regularly for him/her.
- Provide devotional materials for youth or moms (materials are available from the national office).
- Contact prayer groups within churches and ask them to pray for pro-life concerns.
- Organize a prayer chain - form prayer circles to pray for the preborn, children and adults with handicaps, the elderly and for all those who are working in the pro-life movement and against the pro-life movement. Place all these efforts into God's care, asking Him to bless and guide, so that all pro-life work may be done to His glory alone.
- Organize a prayer service

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

All officers of Chapters must be members in good standing of Lutheran congregations and members of Lutherans For Life, Inc.

Suggested donations are listed on the membership form below. However, membership will not be denied anyone as long as a completed membership form accompanies the donation.

Membership amounts are divided between the national, state federation, and local chapter if it is chartered.

Chapters that wish to include a membership blank in newsletters or correspondence are asked to maintain the form and information provided by the national office. Membership brochures provide space for the chapter or state affiliate to stamp its name and address. The local chapter may not establish its own membership program since LFL has a “unified membership” program.

When sending in a membership form to the national office, make sure your chapter name and number, if chartered, is written on the form in the space provided. This will assure that the state federation and local chapter receive the proper remittance payment.

**LUTHERANS FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**I want to become a member of LFL.**

Please select a membership category: (✓)

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

\_\_\_\_\_ **Sponsor:** I commit to a monthly gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

*(Annual & Sponsor membership 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/No. # (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Church Body AALC \_\_\_\_\_ AFLC \_\_\_\_\_ CLBA \_\_\_\_\_ ELCA \_\_\_\_\_ LCMS \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**✂Clip and 📧Send to:**

**Lutherans For Life • 1120 South G Avenue • Nevada, IA 50201-2774  
(888) 364-LIFE • (515) 382-2077 • Fax (515) 382-3020 • info@lutheransforlife.org**

## ***MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS***

### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

Annual members join by making a membership donation of any amount accompanied by a completed copy of the membership form.

Annual members are asked to renew each year. If they fail to do so after two reminders they are removed from the active list and put into an inactive list.

Annual members receive a free copy of the quarterly newsletter *LifeDate*, are informed of other specific items of interest, and give witness with thousands of other Lutherans to their pro-life convictions.

### **SPONSOR MEMBERSHIP**

Sponsor members pledge to contribute a certain amount each month and to pray regularly for Lutherans For Life. They receive coupon books when they join and at the beginning of each subsequent calendar year. The book contains a coupon for each month.

Sponsor members receive a monthly letter from the executive director as well as the quarterly newsletter *Lifedate*.

Each year sponsor members are given the opportunity to renew their pledges or, if they choose, become annual members.

## ***REMITTANCES***

All membership donations are shared with the chartered state federation and/or local chapter to which the particular members may belong. The membership donations are divided as follows:

### *Annual Memberships:*

20% goes to the local chapter (If there is no local chapter this 28% goes to the state federation.)

20% goes to the state federation

60% remains at national

### *Sponsor Memberships:*

1/12 goes to the local chapter (If there is no local chapter this 1/12 goes to the state federation.)

1/12 goes to the state federation

10/12 remains at national

There are four possible membership situations affecting this division. A member may live in a state:

1. with a state federation and in a community with a chartered local chapter. In this case, 28% of the donation goes to the state federation and 28% to the local chapter.
2. with a state federation, but in a community without a chartered local chapter. In this case, 56% of the donation goes to the state federation.
3. without a state federation, but in a community with a chartered local chapter. In this case, 28% of the donation goes to the local chapter.
4. without a state federation and in a community without a chartered local chapter. In this case, all membership donations remain with the national office.

## ***CHARTERED CHAPTER STATUS POLICY***

Lutherans For Life strives to be good stewards of the funds given us. To help us achieve this, we have developed guidelines to assure proper disbursements and usage of these funds. The national office returns approximately 47% of membership moneys to the state federations and **currently active** local chapters as outlined on the previous page.

The status of a chapter is determined by the annual chapter report. A chapter report form is sent to every chapter every year in October. **The local chapter must return a completed chapter report to retain an active status.** This report will also be used to update officer information and addresses, and inclusion of chapter activities in national news.

A duplicate annual report form is sent to each chapter that does not respond. If this second form is not returned, the chapter is placed on a Pending Inactive List. Once a chapter is placed on a Pending Inactive List any future membership remittance moneys will be sent to the state affiliate. If there is no state affiliate it will be placed in the working account of the national office.

All chapters on the Pending Inactive List will receive the annual report form again the following year. If there is no response to this request, the chapter will be deactivated.

A pending inactive or deactivated chapter may become an active chapter at any time. Contact the national office to determine what action needs to be taken.

## PREAMBLE TO POSITIONS

*“I have made the earth and created man on it. It was I.”* (Isaiah 45:12)

God made this statement many times and in various ways throughout the Bible. God states that He is the Creator of the earth and every human being. Lutherans For Life believes god as He has revealed Himself to us un His Word. The following positions are intended to guide us in our relationships to others while we remain true to our beliefs concerning God and His revealed will for all people everywhere.

### Abortion

- WHEREAS, Scripture clearly states that God is the Creator of all human life (Job 10:12) from the moment of conception (Psalm 139:13,14); and
- WHEREAS, Human life, even though marred by the Fall, has a unique and valued place in God’s creation (Genesis 9:6; Psalm 8:5); and
- WHEREAS, God sent His Son to die and redeem all human life (John 3:16); and
- WHEREAS, Willful abortion is murder, and God says murder is wrong (Exodus 20:13); therefore be it
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life opposes willful abortion as a moral option, except as a tragically unavoidable result of medical procedures necessary to prevent the death of the mother, such as ectopic pregnancy; and be it further
- RESOLVED That members of Lutherans For Life acknowledge the need to help women experiencing a crisis pregnancy and offer hope to those who suffer the aftermath of abortion.

## **Abortion Healing**

WHEREAS, Although abortion ends a pregnancy, it can neither “undo” the pregnancy nor return a woman to the person she was before; rather, it changes the way she perceives herself, her sexuality, her relationships, and her ability to make good decisions; and

WHEREAS, Individuals involved in an abortion decision are likely to suffer from guilt, grief, isolation, depression, and other life-disturbing experiences and are in need of compassionate support and constant reassurance of the forgiveness of sins; and

WHEREAS, Lutherans For Life recognizes that the Scriptures declare that:

1. all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23); and
2. if we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He [God] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (I John 1:8-9); and
3. the Lord is near to the brokenhearted (Psalm 34:18); and

WHEREAS, Lutherans For Life recognizes the need to provide assistance to persons and families affected by abortion (I John 3:11); therefore be it

RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life continues to support ministries such as “Healing Hearts” which offer assistance to those experiencing the aftermath of abortion (women, men, grandparents, families, and siblings) and to inform and care for those individuals to the end that they may receive from Christ comfort in their time of grief, forgiveness for their sins, and the power to forgive themselves and others.

### **Capital Punishment**

- WHEREAS, Lutherans For Life recognizes the right of the government to carry out capital punishment, which is a life-related issue; and
- WHEREAS, Lutherans For Life acknowledges significant differences between the issues of capital punishment and abortion; and
- WHEREAS, These differences are substantive in that capital punishment involves a rational adult who has been charged with a capital crime and found guilty through due process of law, while abortion involves taking the life of an innocent, defenseless, living but preborn child (without due process of law) who neither has been charged with, nor found guilty of, any crime; and
- WHEREAS, In the case of capital punishment the state is empowered to take the life of a criminal, while in the case of abortion a private citizen is empowered to take an innocent life; therefore be it
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life will continue to give witness to the inconsistency of the law of the land which accords due process to those persons charged with a crime while granting other persons license to impose the legal equivalent of capital punishment upon preborn children who are guilty of no crime whatsoever.

### **Contraceptives/Abortifacients**

- WHEREAS, God is the Creator and Giver of life, and we believe that our ability to artificially control conception must always be subject to His design for us and for our children; and
- WHEREAS, Scriptural and scientific witness agree that life begins at conception; and
- WHEREAS, Some abortifacients, such as the IUD, the “morning after pill,” and RU-486, which destroy the fertilized egg or prevent its implantation in the uterine wall have been mislabeled as contraceptives; and
- WHEREAS, Many “birth control” pills, promoted as contraceptives, thin the uterine lining as a back-up mechanism and, therefore, can be abortifacient in nature; therefore be it
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life opposes the use of abortifacients and urges its members to become educated on the nature and effects of all forms of contraception and abortifacients.

### **Embryonic Adoption**

- WHEREAS, God is the Creator and Sustainer of all life; and
- WHEREAS, Medical science has attempted to assist in the process of creating and sustaining human life by developing methods of artificial conception by which multiple human embryos are produced, preserved, and implanted for continuing development; and
- WHEREAS, This has resulted in more embryos than needed; and
- WHEREAS, Medical science views these “leftover” embryos as a valuable resource for research, with the hopes of finding cures for various diseases; and
- WHEREAS, Such research involves the destruction of these embryos; and
- WHEREAS, There are people who recognize the value and dignity of these human embryos even at this early stage of human life and wish to adopt them so they may be welcomed into the family of humanity rather than destroyed or discarded by research; therefore be it
- RESOLVED That, while Lutherans For Life at the present time does not support the artificial methods by which these human embryos were developed, Lutherans For Life recognizes that adoption is a method to save living, human embryos from destruction.

Adopted 1-19-02

## **Embryonic Stem Cell Research**

- WHEREAS, There is continued discussion about the subject of embryonic stem cell research and the benefits claimed to be available from such research; and
- WHEREAS, Much of this discussion appears to indicate that proponents of such research are following the utilitarian philosophy which suggests that the end justifies the means, or claim that good might be brought from evil, and fail to appreciate the issues involved relating to the sanctity of life; and
- WHEREAS, Lutherans For Life recognizes there have been successful clinical applications using non-embryonic stem cells – e.g. stem cells from adult tissue, placental tissue, and umbilical blood -- in the healing of humans; and
- WHEREAS, Human life is a gift from God from the moment of conception regardless of the circumstances of that conception and regardless of where that new life resides, whether in a womb or a fertility clinic; therefore be it
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life opposes embryonic stem cell research, whether involving existing stem cell lines or newly destroyed embryos, for the reason that such research either involved, or involves, the intentional destruction of a human life; and be it further
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life further opposes embryonic stem cell research for the reasons that Christians are not to do evil that good might result (Romans 3:8); and be it further
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life is in favor of research on stem cells from sources that do not involve the intentional past or present destruction of the gift of human life.

Adopted 1-19-02

### **End of Life Documents**

- WHEREAS, There is a legislation in various States and by the Congress regarding what has been called the “right-to-die” and documents which may be executed to implement a claim to such a right; and
- WHEREAS, Lutherans For Life believes that it is within the purview of God alone to decide on the moment that a person is to be called from this life and that whether we live or die, we belong to God; and
- WHEREAS, Lutherans For Life disagrees with the American Medical Association’s designation that food and water are considered extraordinary treatment if taken any way other than orally; and
- WHEREAS, Lutherans For Life recognizes the need to exert caution with end-of-life decisions and written documents known as living wills, advance directives, and durable powers of attorney for health care; therefore be it
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life urges its members to heed God’s word and to prepare to discuss and express their wishes to family and friends, preferably prior to becoming sick or disabled, and to provide information and assistance to help them do so; and be it further
- RESOLVED That any end-of-life documents should be executed with a recognition of a person’s dependence on God and may direct that futile attempts to keep a person alive if irretrievably dying not be instituted or continued, while at the same time taking steps to keep the person comfortable; and, although such steps may hasten death, they should not be taken intentionally to cause death.

### **Equal Rights Amendment**

- WHEREAS, Congressional sponsors of the proposed equal rights amendments to the Constitution of the United States have refused to reveal clearly their intent regarding the application of this amendment to abortion, arguing instead that the federal courts will have to make such determinations; and
- WHEREAS, Groups favoring public funding of abortion have argued in state courts that an equal rights amendment to the state constitution mandates public funding of abortion; and
- WHEREAS, Groups favoring abortion have claimed that the proposed equal rights amendment to the United States Constitution would lead to the invalidation of abortion funding restrictions and other abortion-related legislation; therefore be it
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life opposes any equal rights amendment which discriminates against the preborn, who are most in need of legal protection to secure an equal right to life.

## **Eugenics**

WHEREAS, Eugenics is defined as the science that deals with the improvement of the races and breeds, especially the human race, through the control of hereditary factors;  
and

WHEREAS, Human beings are created by God in His image and therefore should not be subject to value judgments relative to superiority or inferiority (James 2:9) but are dependent upon the sovereign plan and purpose of God who knits people together in their mother's womb and fashions them according to the plan inscribed in Psalm 139:16; and

WHEREAS, Certain individuals or groups who consider themselves superior, elite, and responsible for establishing a "superior" race or class of people are advocating or utilizing the practice of selection, genetic manipulation, sterilization, or the physical elimination of certain individuals or classes of people by abortion, euthanasia, or outright killing; therefore be it

RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life opposes the following:

1. all methods of genetic experimentation, "engineering" or manipulation that would seek to "breed a superior class or race"; and
2. any practices of forced sterilization intended to "breed a superior human class or race";  
and
3. any practice or process of elimination of presumed "inferior" races or the selection of some race or class of people deemed "superior."

## **Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide**

- WHEREAS, Scripture proclaims that God is the Creator and Giver of life; and
- WHEREAS, Scripture states there is a time to live and a time to die (Ecclesiastes 3:2a) and that time is in God's hands (Psalm 31:15); and
- WHEREAS, Suicide and assisted suicide violate the Fifth Commandment, "You shall not murder," as explained by Martin Luther in the Large Catechism, "we must not kill either by hand, heart, or word, by signs or gestures, or by aiding or abetting"; therefore be it
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life opposes euthanasia and assisted suicide; and be it further
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life will assist and encourage:
1. all those caring for the infirm and the dying in showing true compassion ("to suffer with") by using pain management methods and providing food and water to sustain life as needed; and
  2. clergy and laity alike to care for the infirm and the dying, to proclaim the message of salvation, and to be with them in their times of suffering, asking God's blessing of spiritual growth and comfort for all involved.

## **Evolution**

- WHEREAS, Evolution is commonly understood by major science organizations and many educational institutions as “an unsupervised, impersonal, unpredictable, and natural process of temporal descent with genetic modification that is affected by natural selection, chance, historical contingencies, and changing environments”<sup>1</sup>; and
- WHEREAS, God, in His divinely inspired Scripture, has clearly stated that He (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) created the earth and all that dwells upon it in six literal days and, on the sixth day, personally and lovingly created man and woman in His image (Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:7; Genesis 2:21,22); and
- WHEREAS, Theories of evolution are a result of our fallen, sinful state and are a rejection of God’s planned and orderly creation of the world; and
- WHEREAS, The value we attach to human life, the way we live, the choices we make, and the way we treat one another are directly affected by our view of origins; and
- WHEREAS, Wide acceptance of the human race being the result of mere chance has placed all human life at serious risk, as evidenced in abortion, infanticide, assisted-suicide, and euthanasia; therefore be it
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life supports the Biblical statements that “the God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth...He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else” (Acts 17:24,25) and “through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life” (John 1:3,4); and be it further
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life base its education and service on the inerrant Word of God which, through the Holy Spirit, reveals the truth of creation and, through the selfless love of Jesus Christ, gives purpose, meaning, and value to all human life.

<sup>1</sup> 1995 Official Statement of the American National Association of Biology Teachers

### **Fetal Tissue Research**

- WHEREAS, The American public remains largely unaware or ill-informed of the serious and significant moral issues surrounding use of fetal tissue, to wit:
1. that the immorality of abortion cannot be erased by alleged humanitarian uses for the organs and tissues of aborted babies; and
  2. that such use promotes a utilitarian ethic that sees the end as somehow justifying (if not redeeming) the means; and
- WHEREAS, These tissues will be obtained from preborn babies intentionally killed by abortion and, in some cases, while the child is yet alive; therefore be it
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life affirms the immorality of all complicity with abortion; and be it further
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life endorses alternative methods of curing neurological diseases (such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's) but decries the exaggeration of the potential for successful fetal tissue implants because it diverts attention away from ongoing research in other areas; and be it further
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life strongly condemns the use of fetal tissue from any preborn or aborted baby at any stage of development for research, donation, or any other so-called benevolent uses.

### **Human Cloning**

- WHEREAS, God is the Creator and Giver of life, and each human being is a unique creation of God; and
- WHEREAS, God has provided human beings with the gift of sexuality through which new human beings are to be procreated; and
- WHEREAS, Scientists have developed the means by which genetically identical human beings can be produced, which process is generally referred to as cloning; and
- WHEREAS, The use of cloning to create replacement body parts represents a utilitarian approach to life which fails to recognize God as the Creator and Sustainer of life; and
- WHEREAS, Efforts to clone human beings allows for the circumvention of the procreative process and is an abuse of the gift of human knowledge in an attempt to usurp the authority of God; therefore be it
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life opposes human cloning and urges its members to become informed about the scientific efforts regarding cloning human beings and to express our concern that it contravenes the design of God for procreation and should not be pursued.

### **In vitro Fertilization**

- WHEREAS, God is the Creator and Giver of life and has provided human beings with the ability to procreate; and
- WHEREAS, Medical science has attempted to assist persons with the procreative process by developing methods by which multiple human embryos may be produced, preserved, and implanted for continuing development; and
- WHEREAS, Although such methods may help persons who had been unable to conceive naturally to conceive and bear children, inherent within such methods at the present time is the loss of life – as not all the embryos produced survive -- and potential for the necessity of making decisions to dispose of unused, excess human embryos; and
- WHEREAS, Lutherans For Life recognizes the pain of childlessness and that some people, desiring to have children, have used in vitro fertilization without realizing or considering the potential consequences for the embryos involved; therefore be it
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life at the present time objects to and opposes the use of in vitro fertilization; and be it further
- RESOLVED that Lutherans For Life does not condemn those married couples who have used in vitro fertilization but encourages ministry to them and to all people such that they may receive the comfort of Christ and His redeeming love.

Adopted 1-19-02

## **Lutheran Hospitals**

- WHEREAS, The purpose of hospitals is to heal and sustain life and to do no willful harm; and
- WHEREAS, Lutheran and other Christian hospitals by their very name, philosophy, and purpose indicate adherence to Christian principles of medical care; and
- WHEREAS, The Word of God clearly teaches that life is a gift from God from conception until natural death; and
- WHEREAS, It is important that the hospital administration and its board of directors be willing to affirm and administer a clear policy of protecting life at every age from conception until natural death; and
- WHEREAS, It has become known that Lutheran and other Christian hospitals engage in the practice of elective abortion; and
- WHEREAS, The practice of elective abortion in Lutheran and other Christian hospitals is an offense to God and a scandal to the Christian and Lutheran community; therefore be it
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life calls upon these hospitals to end the practice of elective abortion; and be it further
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life through its state and local affiliates monitors hospital policy and practice and engages in efforts to restore a clear policy of protecting life at every stage from conception to natural death.

### **Lutheran Involvement with other Pro-Life Organizations**

- WHEREAS, Lutherans For Life is a pro-life organization and therefore part of a large, pro-life movement made up of a variety of different groups; and
- WHEREAS, Lutherans For Life is incorporated as an educational organization for Lutherans; and
- WHEREAS, There are many other worthwhile educational efforts organized by groups which would welcome involvement from Lutherans For Life, its members, and state and local affiliates; and
- WHEREAS, Lutherans For Life, its members, state and local affiliates may be asked to endorse, sponsor, or participate cooperatively in such educational efforts; therefore be it
- RESOLVED That individual members of Lutherans For Life should feel free to participate in the activities of other pro-life groups as they choose, acknowledging that they are speaking or acting for themselves only and not on behalf of Lutherans For Life; and be it further
- RESOLVED That CHAPTERS (local affiliates) of Lutherans For Life give open and careful consideration to all requests for cooperative efforts in order to determine their impact on the unique Lutheran purposes of their chapter through consultation with their state affiliate, if one exists; and be it further
- RESOLVED That STATE AFFILIATES of Lutherans For Life give open and careful consideration to all requests for cooperative efforts in order to determine their impact on the unique Lutheran purposes of their affiliate through consultation with the national office of Lutherans For Life; and be it further
- RESOLVED That the NATIONAL OFFICE of Lutherans For Life gives open and careful consideration to all requests for cooperative efforts in order to determine their impact on the unique Lutheran purposes of the national organization through consultation with the national Board of Directors.

**Lutherans For Life and  
Lutheran Social Service Agency Cooperation**

- WHEREAS, Lutheran Social Service agencies provide various human service programs for people who are troubled or in need; and
- WHEREAS, Lutherans For Life local affiliates include in their efforts volunteer time and support for the types of services often provided by Lutheran Social Service agencies; i.e. counseling for pregnant girls and women, adoption planning and placement, services to the elderly and handicapped children and adults, prevention and treatment of violence in the family; and
- WHEREAS, It is important that clear and mutual understanding exist between members of Lutherans For Life and staff of Lutheran Social Services as to the meaning of “pro-life policies and practices,” which includes providing alternative services to prevent the practices of abortion, infanticide and euthanasia but does not include counseling for, referring or promoting abortion; and
- WHEREAS, Lutherans For Life members in some areas have expressed concern over the apparent lack of understanding of pro-life policies and practices by staff of Lutheran Social Service agencies and, even more seriously, have knowledge of cases where abortion-related activities are supported or provided by staff of Lutheran Social Service agencies; and
- WHEREAS, Lutherans For Life members in some areas have developed good relationships with staff of Lutheran Social Service agencies that have pro-life policies and practices and work cooperatively in providing pro-life educational and supportive services to individuals in need; therefore be it
- RESOLVED That the Lutherans For Life National Office establish a dialogue with LS/3, the umbrella organization for Lutheran Social Service agencies, along with the appropriate staff and committees of the Lutheran church bodies who oversee the certification and operation of Lutheran Social Service agencies for the purpose of developing better understanding and improved communication about the activities and pro-life policies and practices of Lutheran Social Service agencies; and be it further
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life identify, publicize, and endeavor to change policies and practices of Lutheran Social Service agencies which continue to adhere to a pro-abortion position in counseling and referrals; and be it further
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life state and local affiliates support state or local Lutheran Social Service agencies that engage in pro-life policies and practices; and be it further
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life invite and encourage staff and board members of Lutheran Social Service agencies to become members of Lutherans For Life.

### **Nuclear Disarmament**

- WHEREAS, Lutherans For Life recognizes that Christian people may disagree on the best way to prevent nuclear war; and
- WHEREAS, The disagreement has tended to be divisive even of those involved in the pro-life movement to the detriment of our primary purpose on behalf of the unborn; and
- WHEREAS, Those who claim to be threatened by the possibility of conflict are able vocally and visibly to protest while the victims of abortion, a tragic, present and on-going reality, are not able to protest their imminent and certain death; therefore be it
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life takes no position on the issue of nuclear disarmament; and be it further
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life continues to focus its attention and resources upon the immediate crisis, which is the killing of nearly two million unborn children annually by abortion, and devote its efforts to serving as an advocate for all those who are abortion's victims — fetus, father, mother, grandparent, family, friends, and the misguided abortionist, indeed, all of society.

### **Picketing and Sidewalk Counseling**

- WHEREAS, Lutherans For Life opposes abortion at any stage of development; and
- WHEREAS, Picketing and sidewalk counseling have had significant results in sensitizing communities and individuals to the true nature of abortion, resulting in lives saved; and
- WHEREAS, Some recent interpretations of the law regarding the rights of those persons who peacefully and legally protest the destruction of preborn children by abortion have tended to erode the Constitutional right of free speech; and
- WHEREAS, The Scriptures state that “everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities” (Rom 13:1); and
- WHEREAS, Holy Scripture stands above any manmade law (Acts 4:19); therefore be it
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life strongly advocates obedience to all laws of the land, including those related to abortion issues, unless otherwise directed by Holy Scripture; and be it further
- RESOLVED That all methods of publicly expressing concern for the preborn child be done charitably with both the perpetrators and victims in mind.

## **Population Control**

- WHEREAS, God is the Creator of life and Sustainer of life (Genesis 1); every conception is known to Him (Psalm 139:13-16); and every life is precious to Him (Matthew 6:26); and
- WHEREAS, Certain individuals and organizations, influenced by evolutionary theory, view human beings as “mouths to be fed” rather than heads to think, hands to serve, and hearts to love; and
- WHEREAS, These individuals and organizations have a “doomsday” and humanistic approach predicting that overpopulation will be the cause of severely depleted natural resources; and
- WHEREAS, These groups advocate world population control through “family planning programs” which include abortion, euthanasia, and the distribution of contraceptives and abortifacients to youth as well as to single and married persons; and
- WHEREAS, Making available contraceptives and abortifacients for use by youth and other persons, married or single, implies invitations to engage in sexual relations outside of marriage, which is contrary to God’s word in Scripture (Exodus 20:14), and to commit willful abortion, which is also contrary to God’s word in Scripture; and
- WHEREAS, Population control is distrust in God, for God has said, “I am He who will sustain you. I have made you...I will sustain you...” (Isaiah 46:4); therefore be it
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life condemns population control and the use of abortion and euthanasia to achieve it and also rejects the labeling of human beings as “predators” on this planet; and be it further
- RESOLVED That Lutherans For Life members remain alert and informed concerning environmental and population issues.

***ADDRESSES – STATE PRESIDENTS AND LFL NATIONAL OFFICE***