

News and Notes

- LFL national would like to welcome two new State Federation presidents: Helen Lewis of Montana and David Emmons of Wisconsin.
- Life Sunday sample packs will be in the mail in early October! Our 2011 theme is, **“Hands that Knit, Arms that Hold”** based on **Psalm 139:13-16** (“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.”) and **Mark 10:13-16** (“And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.’ And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.”)

- **New Website/New “LFL Blue”** – The new website went online May 27. As part of



Lutherans
For Life

the update and upgrade, we have switched over to a new color and font scheme, which includes the Lutherans For Life logo. The new color scheme is intended to be more welcoming and comfortable for those who are coming to us for info on very personal and serious life issues. For those of you who

produce color LFL materials for use in your congregations and communities, here are the specifications for the new color: Pantone 2925; R:0 G:153 B:218; C:76 M:25 Y:0 K:0. The new logo font is ITC Galliard Std.

- LFL2020 is Lutherans For Life’s new Facebook page! See the article in the Faith in Action section!
- LFL is in the process of producing new materials in Spanish! The latest is the booklet, *Into His Loving Care*. It is available now and can be ordered at www.cph.org.
- **The new Renewal For Life® website will be LIVE this month!!** With a more user-friendly format and Forum, we are excited to share with our pastors and congregations this new and improved tool to access For Life resources.
- We are also in the process of revising the RFL Presentation DVD. All current presenters will receive one in the mail shortly. If you are not yet a presenter for RFL and you would like to be, please contact Jeri Richard at the national office for more information.
- **LFL Calendar:** Check out the new online calendar at www.lutheransforlife.org!



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National Lutherans For Life Office Staff

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb – Executive Director
George Munyon – Director of Operations
Lowell J. Highby – Director of Communications
Kay Meyer – Director of Development
James P. Schroeder – Christian Estate Planning Counselor
Trisha Adams – Business Manager
Amy O’Shaughnessy – Secretary
Jerilyn Richard – Renewal For Life Coordinator
Kim Nessa – RFL Administrative Assistant
Katie Friedrich – Office Assistant

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Jean Amundson, Texas – Cleburne
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**Abortion Statistics for the United States: 3,287 abortions per day
Abortions from 1973-2006 (using the 2003 estimate for 2004-2006):
47,187,00.**

Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute.



Published September 2010

Important IRS Information

The following message is provided from Office of Personnel Management (OPM) as a courtesy to charitable agencies participating or who have participated in the Combined Federal Campaign

Tax-exempt organizations, except churches and church-related groups, that fail to file for three consecutive years automatically lose their tax-exempt status. The IRS is providing one-time relief to allow small tax-exempt organizations to come back into compliance by October 15, 2010, and retain their tax-exempt status even though they failed to file for three consecutive years. The IRS has published a list of over 300,000 organizations at risk of losing their exemption because the IRS has no record of their filing for 2007, 2008 or 2009.

It's easy to find out whether your organization is one of the 300,000 charities at risk of losing its tax exemption because it hasn't filed a return for 3 years. Simply go to www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=225889,00.html and check the list for those at risk! Many small organizations can take advantage of the IRS one-time filing relief program and avoid losing their tax-exempt status.

Go to IRS.gov for more information before it's too late.



To LFL Leaders ...

The following article appears in the latest issue of *LifeDate*. We reprint it here because we want to be sure as many people as possible see this. Please share it freely with LFL members, congregations, pastors, educators, etc. Begin using the new mission statement in your publications, e-mails, letters, and displays.

Most importantly, use the mission statement when **planning your activities**. For each activity ask, “Will this in some way help Lutherans be Gospel-motivated voices For Life?” We will be asking that question about **everything** we do here at the Life Center. And remember, **we are ALL Lutherans For Life!** We all want to be working and serving with same mission in mind.

LFL Adopts New Mission and Vision Statements!!!

“Change” can be a frightening word, especially for Lutherans! But sometimes change is needed and is good. It is always healthy for an organization to periodically look at its mission and vision.

LFL’s board of directors will be doing some major strategic planning in September of 2010. Since the strategic plan flows from our mission and vision statements, the board decided to re-look at these statements in preparation for the planning meeting. Over a few months time, input was sought from a variety of sources. This was then collated by the board’s strategic planning committee. A draft was eventually approved by this committee and presented to the board of directors at their meeting on July 22, 2010. On July 23, the board met with LFL’s state presidents to discuss and refine the draft. At this meeting, a new mission statement and a new vision statement were adopted.

As you read these, remember that a **mission statement** should tell what an organization does and to whom it does it. A **vision statement** should reflect what things would look like if we accomplish our mission.

LFL’s Mission:

Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

LFL’s Vision:

Every Lutheran congregation upholding the God-given value of human life and influencing society to do the same.

Mission

A **mission statement** should be as short as possible so it can be easily memorized and displayed. Nevertheless, much thought went into developing this statement. The following comments will help give some understanding of the thoughts reflected in our mission.



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Equipping – Educating, Energizing, and Encouraging through high-quality, relevant multi-media resources—print, DVD, website, social networks, etc.—and various speaking venues.

Lutherans – *Whoever* they are: Pastors, Individuals, Educators. *Wherever* they are: Homes, Congregations, Schools (Seminaries, Universities, High Schools, Middle Schools, Elementary Schools, Pre-Schools)

Gospel-motivated – This is the heart of LFL and makes us unique. We are not For Life because we live in a society that isn't, but because we serve a God who is. We are motivated by the Gospel to be Him and share Him boldly, joyously, and lovingly as we connect Him and His message to the life issues and, thus, change hearts and minds. Gospel motivation does not preclude use of the law, but always as preparatory for the Gospel.

Voices – This includes preaching, teaching, witnessing, caring, and being Christian citizens.

Vision

If we accomplish this mission and get to all these Lutherans, then every Lutheran congregation will be affected and every Lutheran congregation will be upholding the God-given value of human life and influencing society through word and deed.



God's People are Cheerful Givers!

by Kay L. Meyer

God's Word has a lot to say about money.

“But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

“For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang. But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love and perseverance and gentleness. Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasures of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed” (1 Timothy 6).

Maybe you, like me, have often heard the phrase, God loves a cheerful giver. Just what is a cheerful giver? Does being a cheerful giver mean giving to everyone who asks? Certainly not. But, what then does it mean to be a cheerful giver? Here are some of my thoughts about how to be a cheerful giver:

- Cheerful givers know that their salvation is complete because of what Christ has done for them. He suffered and died for all of our sins. And has granted us forgiveness and eternal life as a free gift. We can be joyous and thankful because of this salvation.
- Cheerful givers should give first to their own congregation. This is where they are fed spiritually. Then, as the Lord leads them, to other non-profit organizations.
- Cheerful givers pray first and ask the Lord to help and guide them in their decisions about how they will give and to whom they will give.
- Cheerful givers are not reluctant to ask non-profit organizational leaders for their financial reports so you can see how they use their funds. Many non-profits post their federal government 990 report on their website. An annual report should always be available to those who request it.
- Cheerful givers donate to charities that touch their hearts. They are often passionate about the work these organizations do. So, if you love animals, then



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you might want to give to a local animal shelter. If you love children, then you might want to give to charities that help or serve low-income children. If you love evangelism, then you might want to give to organizations that share the Gospel beyond the walls of the Church and help equip people to witness. And, if you love Life, from the womb to the tomb, then you will want to support Lutherans For Life and other pro-life organizations.

The above verse also says, “For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil.” Note that this verse doesn’t say ‘money is the root of all evil’, but rather that the love of money is the root of all evil. Don’t put your faith in money.

Let’s be content with what the Lord gives us. And be cheerful givers!



Lessons on Life from the Life of a Salmon

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

My wife and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary with a trip to Alaska with our sons and their families. The many memorable adventures included fly fishing for salmon and occasionally even catching one! I find the life cycle of the salmon very intriguing and instructive about life itself. So let's look at some lessons on life from the life of a salmon.



The female salmon scoops out a nest in the bottom of the stream with her tail and lays her **eggs**, as many as 2400. The male then fertilizes them. They are covered with sand to protect them. The parent salmon will guard the nest for a few days but soon they will die. These young salmon are referred to as eggs, but are really developing embryos. It is interesting that these eggs, these embryos, are considered to be salmon. (That is something to discuss in light of how so many today consider human embryos.)



The embryos eventually break free of the soft shell but retain the yolk sac, their source of nourishment. These **Alevin** are very vulnerable and remain hidden in the sand and gravel of the stream bed.

Read Psalm 139:13-18. What parallels do you see with our development in the womb and these beginning stages of a salmon's life? What did God know about us even then? Have you ever thought about the fact that God thought about us as tiny embryos? Wow!



As the Alevin grow they leave the protection of the stream bed and begin their long journey to the sea. Depending on the species, this may take three to four years. They are now called **Fry**. They are still very small and very vulnerable. As they travel and feed, they must constantly seek refuge under rocks and logs and vegetation. Many hungry predators lurk about!

Read Psalm 31:1-5. What are some of the "predators" that lurk about and seek to destroy us? What places can we go to seek the refuge of our God?

Read Psalm 91:1-4. Here God is compared to a refuge and fortress. But what else? (v. 4) What is the advantage of a fortress that is movable, warm, and loving?



The salmon continue their journey and keep on growing and are called **Parr** when they are about six inches long. Now, it is not as easy to hide in the usual spots. But the God of all creation provides. He covers them with markings that help them blend in with the stream bottom and other surroundings. He helps them look like something else.

Read Genesis 3:7. Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves. They were trying to hide not only their nakedness but also their sinfulness. How do you think those fig leaves worked out for them?

What does Scripture say about those things we do to try to cover ourselves? (**Isaiah 64:6**)

What did God do for Adam and Eve? (**Genesis 3:21**) What does He do for us? (**Isaiah 61:10**)

Where does such a beautiful robe like righteousness come from? (**Romans 3:22**) How is this truth particularly helpful to those involved in sins against life?





As the salmon approach the time they will enter the sea, they start to school together and are called **Smolt**. Much transformation needs to take place so they can adapt to their new home in the salt water of the ocean. They change outwardly as well as taking on their adult coloring.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13. What is it we form as we are “schooled together”? How does this “schooling” happen? (**Romans 6:1-7**)

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18. What transformation takes place as we “school” together around Word and Sacrament?

Read Romans 12:2. What kind of transformation is Paul talking about here? What are some of the ways we “conform to the pattern of this world” especially when it comes to the life issues?

Read Philippians 3:20-21. What transformation do we have yet to look forward to?



Finally, the salmon reach the **Adult** stage and begin their life in the sea. Alaskan salmon may travel more than 2,000 miles in the Gulf of Alaska and the North Pacific. They have learned much and matured. Nevertheless, there are still dangers awaiting them. Seals, whales, fishermen—all would like some of that great salmon meat!

Read Ephesians 4:11-16. We, too, are to mature and grow up in this journey of life we are in. Dangers do not go away for the mature Christian. The big three—the devil, the world, our flesh—still seek to devour us. What helps us mature and keep us safe?

We not only are to grow in our knowledge of the truth, we are to speak it to one another. But *how* are we to speak this truth? Discuss how this applies to sharing the message of life with those in your congregation.



The salmon have one more journey to make, the journey back home. After several years in the ocean, the salmon will return to the same stream and swim up to the same area in which they were born! The trip is long, dangerous, and taxing. Here they will **spawn** and then die. Many species of salmon do so in a “blaze of glory” so to speak. The males will change to bright pinks and reds.

Read 2 Timothy 4:7-8. The salmon go home to die. We die to go home. The death of the salmon is associated with new life. Our death, too, is associated with new life, a glorious life crowned with righteousness. Discuss this hope in light of those who are suffering and those who are nearing the end of life. Discuss the urgency of our message for those who do not know Jesus. Discuss how the life issues give us opportunity, not just to point out right and wrong, but more importantly to point to Jesus our Creator, our Refuge, our Righteousness, our Transformer, our Head, our Glory!



What LFLers are Doing

by Kay L. Meyer

I recently completed the federal paperwork for Lutherans For Life to be approved for the Combined Federal Campaign that allows us to receive donations from federal employees and military personnel. (The CFC identification number for LFL is 11508.) I thought LFL volunteers and supporters might be interested in learning about what LFL volunteers around the country are doing to help us accomplish the vision, mission, and goals. Hopefully you will find a few ideas for your federation, chapter, congregation, or school.

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, the executive director of Lutherans For Life, visited Canada, 13 states, and Washington DC in 2008-2009. He made 224 presentations to churches, conventions, schools, LFL federation members, LFL chapter members, and many church groups. This included presentations to 8,777 people. ***(Join me in praising the Lord for the leadership and commitment of Dr. Lamb!)***

LFL had activities and programs in 32 states, Washington D.C., and Canada. They include: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Washington D.C.

The following are examples of what staff, volunteers, and LFL groups have done. (The comments were taken from Annual Activity and other reports.)

Sanctity of Life Sunday

- We had the candle luminaries available for people to take home and put out on the evening of January 21 to remember all the unborn babies.
- We observed Sanctity of Life Sunday with special Bible studies at many congregations.
- We did a Life Sunday program entitled, *When Life Throws the Unexpected*. We had four women and two couples share their personal stories involving infertility, miscarriage, fear of losing a baby, the prospect of raising a child with special needs, etc. The moderator was a neonatal intensive care nurse.

Supporting Pregnancy Resource Centers and other Life affirming organizations

- The Pregnancy Resource Center Banquet was held at the Church of Rocky Peak in Chatsworth, California. Twenty-nine LFL members from three churches attended.
- The Pregnancy Counseling Center's March was held at St. Cyril of Jerusalem Catholic Church in Encino, California. Many LFL members attended and participated.



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- The Northern Louisiana Chapter donates funds to the local crisis pregnancy center. The center advises and teaches teens/women not to have abortions and helps women overcome the guilt they often feel for not having had an abortion. We donate LFL resources to them.
- We support a local maternity home with the diaper shower, Walk for Life, and annual banquet funds.

LFL Fund Raisers

- The Baby Bottle Boomerang for the Pregnancy Resource Center was held at Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, and the University Lutheran Chapel at UCLA. Bottles were passed out in April and returned on Mother's Day.
- The Walk for Life was held to benefit the local pregnancy resource center.
- We organized a pancake and sausage breakfast as a fund raiser and gave the funds raised to the local pregnancy center.
- Our chapters' project for the year was the Concordia Seminary Food Pantry. Fundraisers were held throughout the year and the collections of pantry items collected and given to the food pantry.
- With matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, we were able to raise \$3,200 to help with medical bills for the grandson of a member whose wife is pregnant with twins who have rare medical complications.
- Special mission projects raised money for First Choice Clinic, which purchased a new examination table for ultrasound exams.
- We had a Christmas cookie sale and donated the funds raised to organizations that support life.
- We organized a Ride for Life and used the proceeds to support local ministries that support life.

Mother's Day & Father's Day

- On Mother's Day we held a baby shower for pregnancy centers. Members brought baby clothes, diapers, and other baby items for pregnant women that the pregnancy center serves.
- We sold carnations for Mother's Day and gave the funds we raised to the crisis pregnancy center.
- On Father's Day we offered free ice cream cones after the worship services as a thank you for the church's support of our projects.
- We put white bows on the evergreens in front of our churches for Mother's Day.
- We held a Mother's Day Diaper Shower for Compassion Pregnancy Center.
- We held a pre-order corsage sale for Mother's Day at the churches to help raise money to support pregnancy centers and LFL.
- We purchased posters showing what Jesus would have looked like each month in the womb until His birth. We put a cradle next to the easel with the poster during the Mother's Day to Father's Day diaper shower.



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- Many Lutheran churches supported our Mother's Day Rose Sale which allowed us to provide donations to other organizations such as Concordia Students, A Place of Refuge (for pregnant women), and the Concordia Bioethics Institute.

Renewal for Life® Presentations

- Twenty-one churches had their pastors or church leaders attend the Renewal For Life® training.

Did you know your local circuit or other pastors' group can request this presentation at no cost to them?

Teaching for Life®

- Twenty-two schools purchased and used the *Teaching for Life*® curriculum.
- We provided one complete set of *Teaching for Life*® to each of the 12 (K-8) accredited Lutheran schools in Houston.

Praying for Life

- Houston Lutherans for Life participated in the 40 Days for Life peaceful prayer vigil.
- The Greater DFW Chapter had approximately 20 individuals attend a Good Friday peaceful prayer vigil in Fort Worth.
- Three LFL members visited a Planned Parenthood facility and prayed for those who entered and left.

Seminars, Programs, and Presentations

- A seminar was held for the wives of Concordia Seminary students.
- We presented a Focus on Health event for senior citizens.
- We spoke to 1700 students at three public schools on *When Your Heart Starts Beating*. We used a gummy bear to show how small they are at that time and also gave a bracelet telling them "Life is Priceless" along with information on the various stages of development.
- We participated in 40 Days for Life.
- We spoke to Christ Academy on assisted suicide.
- Dr. Lamb spoke on *Biotechnology 101*.
- Dr. Lamb spoke at the LFL Kansas Annual Conference and at Life Sunday services in Topeka and Overland Park, Kansas, on *Matters of the Heart, The Value of Human Life, How God Gives Human Life Value, and Healing Broken Hearts*. This last session dealt with helping others learn to help those struggling with post-abortion syndrome.
- We presented *Living with Dying and End of Life Issues* on how to cope with the issues at the end of life.
- Two members of our chapter did a presentation for the confirmation class.



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- We used Dr. Lamb's DVD, *Stem Cell Research and Cloning 101: A Primer*, for a Bible class to educate people about embryonic stem cell research.
- At our Life Conference we shared a stem cell video which was sent to every Catholic home in the diocese. We also used Dr. Lamb's "Stem Cell 101" DVD as an educational tool, supplemented by Stem Cell Research Cures print material. We sent this information to all area churches that requested one. Each received a telephone call from us about it.
- We presented a chapel message to students.
- We made a presentation at an LWML meeting.
- We organized and sponsored a Purity Rally for the youth.
- We invited Brian Young to speak on Creation at a community gathering. We invited pastors and their wives to a dinner to familiarize them with LFL and gave them all the three-ring binder of LFL resources.
- Kim Wagner spoke on *The Adoption Option*. She and her husband David have a music ministry.

Other Activities

- Our *Keep Them Dry in July* diaper drive was successful in that a family with three children arrived at Our Savior's on this Sunday and asked if they could have some of the diapers as they were in desperate circumstances. We gave them all that we had collected that day.
- We participated in several parades.
- We give out thousands of Life Savers® candies at the college homecoming parade. We put a label on each Life Saver® that says, "Life Is Precious. Save the Unborn."
- The chapter went Christmas caroling to homebound members.
- Missionaries to Russia shared information with a small group about their work in St. Petersburg.
- We participated in the Life Chain in our community.
- A baby shower was held on Life Sunday. Our children designed the quilt squares and the ladies did the quilting. These quilts were given to the pregnancy centers for their clients.
- A pastor appreciation dinner was served at the joint circuit gathering. We shared a little about LFL and then gave out complimentary packets of LFL materials to all pastors and encouraged them to celebrate Life Sunday in January.
- We made presentations about life on our local radio station.
- We displayed 3200 crosses in front of Weller Hall at Concordia University and had an ingathering.
- We sponsored a cruise and presented devotions and Bible studies on life issues.
- We coordinated a charter bus trip to Austin for the Texas Rally for Life.



Conference Exhibits

- At a teacher's conference at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Des Moines, Iowa, we presented *Teaching the Value of Life in the Classroom*.
- Ozaukee County LFL had an exhibit at the county fair. Many people interacted with our volunteers and the fetal-model displays.

Life Newsletters and Advertising Life

- We send out a monthly newsletter and share LFL publications with our local churches. We also share LFL items for children with our preschools.
- A local newspaper covered a congregational event where 2,000 white crosses were displayed symbolizing the large number of abortions that have taken place in the United States. Twelve volunteers spent a Saturday morning putting up the crosses that were displayed for six days.

Resources from LFL

- We use the *Directions* Bible studies at churches.
- We send *Life News* monthly bulletin inserts to churches in New Jersey.
- We have supplied thousands of bulletin inserts to 12 local congregations for Life Sunday.
- Our LFL chapter sponsored a display at "Women's Showcase" a local marketing event. We handed out LFL literature at no charge to those who were willing to accept it.

Personal Visits

Local LFL volunteers made personal visits to each LCMS pastor in Lincoln to deliver complimentary LFL resources and talk about Life Sunday.

Reaching Youth

- 175 confirmands in LCMS churches in our community received a personal card with a Precious Feet pin. [Precious Feet and Precious Hands pins, from LFL, are available at www.cph.org.]
- We have distributed resources to many confirmation classes in our area.
- We shared the Molly Kelly video on *Chastity for Students* to confirmation and high school students.

As you can see, LFL staff and volunteers are creative and find a myriad of ways to promote life and educate people about life issues. Thank you for all you do in support of life! May the Lord continue to guide and direct your steps.



Bringing Good News to Life in Green Bay!

by Trisha Adams, National Conference Director

Lutherans For Life of Wisconsin joined the national office in hosting the 2010 LFL National Conference in Green Bay, Wisconsin, under the theme: **Bringing Good News to Life!**

Conference attendees—about 225 of them—came from California to Massachusetts and Texas to Canada. Pre-conference events included a luncheon with Dr. Lamb for pastors and Kay Meyer's presentation on how LFL volunteers can raise financial support for their state federations, local LFL chapters, national LFL, and other non-profit organizations.



The conference opened with a worship service led by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb. In his sermon based on Acts 17, he said, "Paul loved the Good News ... he desperately wanted his fellow Jews to know that Jesus Christ was the Messiah ... this is Good News For Life."

The **Bringing Good News to Life!** theme offered an apologetics-based premise presented in plenary sessions by Rev. Dr. Jeff Gibbs, Professor of New Testament, Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis; Alan Shlemon, Stand to Reason; and Wesley J. Smith, Senior Fellow in Human Rights and Bioethics at the Discovery Institute. Workshops led by Anthony Horvath, Kim Ketola, Dr. Ryan MacPherson, Alan Shlemon, and Rev. Dr. Kevin Voss covered topics such as Biblical Womanhood, Biblical Manhood, Defense of Marriage, Making Abortion Unthinkable, and Adult Stem Cell Research. Renee Gibbs led a dialogue with a panel of young people discussing ways to engage young people in pro-life activities.

After the banquet on Friday evening, Wesley Smith gave the keynote address titled: *The Need for Good News: the Death Culture and Ways to Fight it*. Mr. Smith stressed the need to contrast the culture of life with the culture of death. He said the culture of death is "very powerful and wants us to believe that being a human being doesn't matter ... and that is very dangerous." He said much of society is all about eliminating suffering at all costs, which has led to support for abortion, assisted suicide, and euthanasia, yet "love is a word you don't often see the other side use too often ... eliminating suffering quickly morphs into eliminating the sufferer."

Plans have begun for Conference 2011 in Dallas, Texas. **Adopted in Christ** is the conference theme and is based on Romans 8:15b. We have secured permission to show the movie *Bella* and are looking forward to entertainment by Heather Ruesch and a workshop with Dr. Russell Moore, author of *Adopted For Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families and Churches*. Look for more information about other speakers and an early-bird discount as the conference time gets closer. **Save the date—August 5-6, 2011—Dallas, Texas.** We look forward to seeing you there!



Annual Activity Reports

By Kim Nessa, Administrative Assistant

“But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good” (2 Thessalonians 3:13).

As I once again read through the Annual Activity Reports you have returned to the National Office, I am so thankful and blessed by each one of you. You continue to amaze me at all the things you accomplish as volunteers for the Lord of Life. Thank you for being His hands as you continue spreading the message of Life.

Personal Stories

- I became pregnant as a result of a date rape. My doctor wanted me to abort the baby. A friend from church took me to the Right To Life office. I chose to keep my son. Today my son is 32 years old and is expecting his fourth child.
- Our chapter donated copies of *GOD’S WORD for Life* to the New Hope Center, a local care pregnancy center. New Hope distributed the Bibles to the moms who attended their Bible studies.
- Our church highlighted foster care/adoption with an informational brunch this year. We had families in our church share their experience of being foster parents and talk about how others can get involved.
- A teenage girl stopped at our fair booth and marveled at the different stages of an unborn baby. She had never seen this before and was going to tell all her friends about it.
- Thirty-eight members of our congregation attended the March for Life in January. It was great to get that much support because there are only five active LFL members. We passed out membership forms to all the participants.
- For our Life Sunday event, I use my grandkid’s chenille bassinet filled with baby dresses, birth announcements, ultrasound pictures, and newborn pictures. This seems to really touch people’s hearts.
- Each year at the beginning of the Lenten season, we give a Lenten Packet to each of our church member families. This packet includes a calendar containing Scripture readings for each day and a request (if the member chooses) to set aside a quarter each for three designated Christian organizations. At the end of the Lenten season the money is divided between the three entities of which your organization was included.
- Our chapter does not have any personal stories, but we thank God that He has provided us with the opportunity to take part in health fairs in our schools, both public and private, so that we can bring the Life Message to our young people.
- We have filled 12 dressers with all the things necessary for a child’s first year of life. We give the dresser and supplies to a mother who has chosen life over insurmountable material odds.
- We hope our purchase of two sets of Teaching For Life® will have an impact. They were presented to the two parochial schools in our area.



How can National Help?

National Lutherans For Life welcomes comments and suggestions anytime throughout the year. Here are a few ideas we have received.

- Fundraising ideas are always helpful, as are ways to strengthen the support from pastors and other church workers. We have yet to introduce Renewal For Life® in our circuit because pro-life pastors keep leaving and moving to other circuits.
- Please give me any ideas to get our people energized and going with this very important message. One of the ladies at my work brought in a little rubber model of a 10-week old fetus “baby.” She said that everyone at church got one. She showed everyone at our office and they were shocked how formed the baby was already. [Fetal models and information cards, from LFL, are available at www.cph.org.]
- Continue to come up with new materials to keep our mission fresh. Thank you for your wonderful support.
- We need more Bible studies with a wide range of life topics. [A number of Bible studies, from LFL, are available at www.cph.org.]
- We need three-minute informational DVDs for fairs and pre-services.
- Please work with our pastors and schools and “especially” our LCMS synod and ask them to encourage and promote life the entire church year so our congregations are aware of the importance of pro-life church and community. Thank you for all your hard work. [Ways to keep the Life message before congregations throughout the year include *Life News* bulletin inserts, *Life Quotes*, and *Life Thoughts in the Church Year*.]
- Just stay faithful to the Lord and He will bless!

Comments, Suggestions, or Concerns

- Thank you for all you are doing. I’m seeing light at the end of the tunnel! Our young people are becoming pro-life.
- I’m glad you have updated some of the tracts with slick paper and bright colors.
- I was disappointed I didn’t get more information regarding the South Dakota LFL Convention in January.
- Thank you Dr. Lamb for speaking to pastors in Rapid City, South Dakota. My pastor came back fired up to create a new position of Life Advocate in our congregation.
- Could you share more stories from men and their recovery after abortion? [A special issue of *LifeDate* focusing on men and abortion is available for the cost of shipping.]
- The website news articles are very informative. I keep trying to urge people to check it out weekly. [Check out the new Life Blog at www.lutheransforlife.org.] Sincere thanks to Dr. Lamb for encouraging pastors to view life as a spiritual issue verses political.
- I use *Directions* and find them informative and helpful. I use various articles and include them in our monthly newsletter.
- I especially appreciate the Life Sunday materials. They have been very helpful in making our event inspirational and thought provoking.



Do You Facebook or Twitter? We Do!

by Karen Frohwein, National LFL Facebook Coordinator



Many people of all ages are using Facebook and/or Twitter to communicate these days! Lutherans For Life realizes this is an opportunity to equip and engage Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

There are two LFL options on Facebook, the Lutherans For Life cause page and the new LFL 2020 page. If you search for Lutherans For Life in Facebook, you will also come up with Local and State pages. All of these pages are reaching out For Life!

LFL 2020 has been created with the goal of equipping Lutheran young people to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life among their peers and in society. Why “2020”? Here’s what is posted on the page:

What’s the deal with 2020?, you may ask. Actually, one of our administrators did ask. So, here goes. First of all, by the year 2020, Lutherans For Life is really going to need you! Now is the time to connect with current LFL leaders and learn from them so that you can, by the grace of God, stand up and lead the next generation! It takes time to learn—perhaps not 10 years, but let’s get started!

Second point (and clever play on numbers, I must say): It is only by the Word of God that one can clearly see the sanctity of human life. To be pro-life is important, to be pro-eternal life is to have 20/20 vision. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, this is the goal of this page.

So, now that we have a 10 year time frame and clear vision to see the path laid before us ... let’s get going! Oh, and LFL does not stand for Lady Foot Locker!

Can it make a difference? As of this writing, there are 650 “fans” of LFL 2020, an equal mix of male and female, and the largest age groups are the 25-34 and 35-44 ranges. There are also members from age 13 to over age 55. Interestingly, there are also “fans” of the page who list their countries as Canada, Ireland, Germany, Turkey, and South Africa!

If you are a member of Facebook, please join the LFL 2020 page and post your thoughts. We need all ages on the page in order to successfully mentor the younger generation. If you are a long-time LFLer you have valuable knowledge to share! If you are new to LFL, this page was designed to help you grow in your knowledge and passion for the sanctity of human life. Invite your friends, post what is going on in your area, and have fun watching the page grow!



What about Twitter? Get short, timely messages from Lutherans For Life. Twitter is a rich source of instantly updated information. It’s easy to stay updated on an incredibly wide variety of topics. Join today and follow @ForLifers. You can find a link to Twitter at the bottom of LFL’s home page: www.lutheransforlife.org.



Lutherans For Life of Michigan Offers New Resource

The **Praising the Lord of Life Devotional Packet** is a wonderful resource for pastors, volunteers, families, and activity directors to use with residents of extended care communities, hospice patients, and the homebound.



The **Praising the Lord of Life Devotional Packet** features:

- Two CDs of 56 favorite hymns with organ, choir, and trumpet accompaniment that residents can sing along with.
- Reproducible large-print hymn sheets for residents to use and 10 large-print Psalm sheets and prayers including the Lord's Prayer and the Morning and Evening Prayers.
- A devotion book entitled 100 Bible Stories from Concordia Publishing House.
- A leader's guide designed especially to assist the volunteer.

It is the prayer of LFL of Michigan that this devotional will enhance the faith life of residents of extended care communities and individuals being served by home care ministries as well as provide a much needed resource for those of you who serve them.

This project was supported with Financial gifts from: Loving Arms Chapter of Lutherans for Life, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and Lutherans for Life of Michigan and the time and talent of many individual volunteers. It is being sold at cost.

Order Form for Praising the Lord of Life Devotional Packet

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Cost: \$25.00 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling for each devotional packet.

Number of Packets _____

Total Amount Included \$ _____

Make checks payable to "Lutherans for Life of Michigan" and send with order form to:

Jean Peters, LFL of Michigan, 7409 Maple Rd., Frankenmuth, MI 48734



Speakers Bureau

Do you need a speaker? Lutherans For Life will work with you to help meet your needs for a speaker at a rally, convention, Bible study, worship service, public or parochial school, college/university, or at a workshop/seminar. A variety of formats are available from a single presentation or sermon to a multi-day series of workshops. Dr. Lamb says, “These speakers not only address a variety of life issues, but do so based on the Word of God.”

General speaker guidelines (may vary by individual):

- Airfare/Mileage: Actual airfare and/or current standard IRS mileage rate to airport or event.
- Lodging: Quiet non-smoking hotel room.
- Honorarium: Affiliated speakers for Lutherans For Life are not in a paid position. Therefore, we ask that sponsoring groups provide an honorarium for affiliated speakers. The sponsoring group determines the amount of the honorarium. Honorariums depend on number of events. Honorariums begin at \$200.
- Meals: \$25 per day unless other arrangements are made.
- Other: A lectern will be needed. A TV, video projector, DVD player, and/or an overhead projector and screen may be needed.

Speakers:

James I. Lamb (nationwide and Canada)

Jean Amundson (nationwide)

Linda D. Bartlett (nationwide)

Tracy L. Carmack (nationwide)

Rev. Paul M. Clark (nationwide)

Connie Davis (nationwide)

Daniel M. Domke (within five to six hours of Huron, South Dakota)

John Eidsmoe (nationwide)

Peter B. Greenspan (within two-three hours of Kansas City)

Anthony Horvath (nationwide)

Kimberly Ketola (nationwide)

Sheila Luck (nationwide)

Ryan C. MacPherson (within 150 miles of Mankato, Minnesota)

Betty McGuire (nationwide)

Allen Quist (within Minnesota and Iowa)

Russell E. Saltzman (nationwide)

Alvin J. Schmidt (nationwide and in Canada)

Carl F. Schroeder (nationwide)

Diane E. Schroeder (nationwide)

Ed Szeto (nationwide)

Find out more about these speakers at www.lutheransforlife.org.

