What does Lutherans For Life do?

July 12, 2010

Dear Friend of Life,

The tone of the question was a bit, shall we say, edgy.

“What exactly does Lutherans For Life do?” this supporter asked. He thought maybe Lutherans For Life (LFL) just existed to support itself.

What does Lutherans For Life do?

Good question. He had a right to know. Since this letter is asking you to support Lutherans For Life, you have a right to know as well. It was easy to address his concerns. With your help, Lutherans For Life does a lot!

What does Lutherans For Life do? LFL equips the Church “to do.” LFL is an educational resource organization whose main focus is to provide relevant, high-quality, easy-to-use materials to equip and energize Lutheran pastors, educators, and congregations to apply the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ to the life issues. LFL materials are used by hundreds of congregations and thousands of individuals. Those materials are changing hearts, changing lives, and saving lives. They are DOING a lot!

What does Lutherans For Life do? LFL places these materials via a 4-inch 3-ring binder directly into the hands of graduating seminarians and deaconesses. Right now, we go to seven different seminaries in the U.S. and Canada. We speak at these seminaries and influence future pastors who in turn will influence thousands of Lutherans in congregations. We have been doing this for 14 years and it is bearing much fruit. Your gift of $50, $75, $100, or more will help us continue to do this—and more!

What does Lutherans For Life do? We produce a unique Teaching For Life® integrated curriculum for Christian day schools. This curriculum allows teachers of grades PK-8 to integrate key For Life concepts into what they are already teaching. It is being used by Lutheran schools across the country to teach the value and dignity of human life to hundreds of students. Wait! There’s more! We recently completed a “brain-storming” session with top-notch Lutheran educators to plan the expansion of Teaching For Life® into VBS, Sunday school, Confirmation, youth, and adult curricula.

What does Lutherans For Life do? LFL produces the only For Life Bible on the market.
GOD’S WORD for Life has articles on the life issues inserted next to the Scriptures to which they speak. It contains 38 different articles and commentaries. Plus, there is a special section in the front entitled God’s Word for an Unplanned Pregnancy designed to be read by a woman in that situation. We distribute these free to pregnancy centers and to pastors. We have received reports from pregnancy centers about minds changed and thus lives saved.

**What does Lutherans For Life do?** Before I go on, let me say again that we could do nothing at all without you and your support. Your gift will help us keep producing these high-quality materials and add new ones. Your gift helps us continue to equip our pastors, congregations, and educators with curricula and other resources. We cannot always see how God works through these materials, but we know that He does. Your gift of $50, $75, $100, or whatever you are able to give will help us keep doing this vitally important aspect of our ministry.

**What does Lutherans For Life do?** We connect the Word of Life to the life issues through speaking and preaching. For example, in the last three months I have spoken to nearly 5,000 people in both the United States and Canada. We have a Speaker's Bureau of 18 people who have expertise in the various life issue areas. They add to the number reached with a Word-based, Gospel-centered message.

At a recent speaking event I emphasized how God is the one who gives value to human life. All life has value because of what He has done. He creates life and redeems life and desires to call every life into an eternal relationship with Him. Thus, every life, from the embryo in the Petri dish to grandma in the nursing home bed, has value. A gentleman came up to me afterward with tears in his eyes. He placed his hands on my shoulders and said, “Thank you! You affirmed for me that I do have value. Thank you!” When we speak His Word of life, God touches lives.

**What does Lutherans For Life do?** We established Word of Hope, the only national Lutheran-based post-abortion hot line in existence (www.word-of-hope.org: 888.217.8679—now available to Canadian callers). Calls are answered by trained counselors. We averaged nearly 300 calls per month in 2009. This hotline may also be used by pastors to receive professional advice if they are dealing with women and men struggling with a past abortion.

**What does Lutherans For Life do?** In partnership with East European Ministries and the LCMS World Relief and Human Care Life Ministries committee, we have reached out internationally. We provided funds to help support pregnancy centers in Romania and Latvia. Rev. Don Richman, LFL’s international representative, organized For Life seminars in various portions of Eastern Europe. The momentum there for our message continues to grow. We have helped in the development of LFL of Canada, LFL of Australia, and LFL of Latvia.

**What does Lutherans For Life do?** We display our materials and share God’s message of life and new life at over a dozen conferences and conventions each year reaching thousands
of people. At a recent conference a pastor told me, “Your ministry is important. We need your help in addressing these issues. Keep up your good work.”

Let me pause again to stress how important you are in helping us keep up this good work!

We do not receive funds from any church body. Our funds come from grants, individuals, and congregations. Because various foundations are “tightening the belt” due to the economy, we did not receive some grants that we usually do. Therefore, we need to rely more upon God sharing His resources through people like you and congregations like yours. So I ask you to help us “keep up.” Actually, my vision for LFL is that we do much more than “keep up.” I see opportunities for growing and expanding as never before. There is so much TO DO! Please do what you are able, whether it be $50, $500, or more, to help us keep doing and do more!

**What does Lutherans For Life do?** We produce *LifeDate*, a full-color For Life journal that specifically connects the biblical message of life to the life issues—with over 30,000 on our mailing list. We send this out at no cost every quarter. We get more positive comments about *LifeDate* than anything else we produce. For example, “*LifeDate* is always so great! I read it from cover to cover.” “Your last issue of *LifeDate* was superb! I am rejuvenated!”

**What does Lutherans For Life do?** We produce *Life News*, the only Lutheran subscription-based monthly bulletin insert dealing with life issues from a biblical perspective. Hundreds of churches subscribe getting this message into the hands of thousands of Lutherans.

**What does Lutherans For Life do?** We have a network of state affiliates, chapters, Life Ministry Coordinators, and Life Advocates. They help get our materials into congregations. They set up displays in congregations, at county fairs, and other venues. They hold conferences and seminars. They speak in elementary and high schools. They have special projects.

For example, many of our states have the Display of Crosses which travel across their state and are used by many congregations during a given year. Two of our states have purchased ultra-sound machines and funded technicians to run them and have saved many babies’ lives. They start and/or volunteer at pregnancy centers.

Another example: Lutherans For Life of Wisconsin started A Place of Refuge which has grown to include a maternity home for unwed moms. When I meet with our state presidents, as I do four times a year, it takes 2-3 hours to go over everyone’s report and all that they are doing.

**What does Lutherans For Life do?** Our newest initiative is called Renewal For Life® (RFL). This is a top-down approach where we seek to get into circuit, district, or regional pastoral conferences and meetings. Congregations who sign on to RFL get access to an online library of relevant, word-based, Gospel-centered materials that are organized in
a way that makes them easy to use. A pastor, for example, can easily find Bible studies, worship services, sermons, commentaries, essays, and more on any of the life issues. Through this initiative, I have been able to speak to hundreds of pastors and many are signing on. For example, the South Dakota District President of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod organized his whole district into four regions each made up of several circuits. He then asked me to spend a week in South Dakota and speak to each region thus reaching every circuit in the district. We are reaching out with RFL in other areas of the country and in other church bodies as well.

Each congregation in RFL selects a Life Advocate. We provide training for them and soon we will be helping them select a Life Advocate Team and will provide training for the team. RFL seeks to energize and equip congregations to make dealing with the life issues an ongoing part of their Gospel ministry.

What does Lutherans For Life do? We have a brand-new and streamlined website with new articles and audio/video resources posted each week. We get many compliments on our website and it is used by many pastors and educators. (Check out our Life Blog!)

What does Lutherans For Life do? We are reaching out through Facebook and Twitter and YouTube. We are adding younger people to our national board of directors to help us reach out in ways we have not before.

What does Lutherans For Life do? We recently partnered with Concordia Publishing House (CPH) and, as I like to say, “They work for LFL now!” They house our entire inventory and fulfill all our orders. For the first time in history the CPH web page contains a menu item “Sanctity of Life.” That’s us! This will broaden our base beyond what we could ever accomplish on our own. LFL materials are being sold in all the bookstores operated by CPH at seminaries and Concordia Universities. We will be able to advertise and send flyers and e-mail ads to thousands and thousands on the CPH mailing lists.

What does Lutherans For Life do? I suppose I could go on, but I hope you now have a good picture of what we do. I also pray you are moved to help us do it.

Your servant For Life,

Jim Lamb
Executive Director

P.S. When answering the question, “What does Lutherans For Life do?” I see you right there with us at the national office and across the country as we apply God’s Word to the life issues—in many, many ways. Please partner with us in equipping Christ’s people to apply the life-changing and life-saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to the life issues.