

LifeDate

Summer 2010

A quarterly journal of life issue news and commentary from Lutherans For Life

Energizing and equipping Lutheran individuals, pastors, educators, and congregations to connect the Gospel to the life issues is all part of LFL ...



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Lutherans For Life



Lutherans For Life’s mission is to witness to the sanctity of human life, through education, based on the Word of God.

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Assisted Reproductive Technologies Revisited

by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb



We received a few comments and questions about the spring *LifeDate* article, *Infertility: Hope in the Midst of Pain* by Rev. Roger Sonnenberg. I thought it worthy of a response.

I apologize for the confusion this article caused. We asked Rev. Sonnenberg to write because he and his wife have experienced infertility personally and he has written before on the subject. He gave a good synopsis of the various forms of Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART). He made reference to ethical problems but was not specific about what those problems might be. Our intent was to supplement this article by referencing Dr. Robert Weise's article, *The Pain of Infertility*, which was much more specific regarding ethical concerns. But you know what they say about good intentions!

As a result of the confusion, some questioned where LFL stood on these issues. So let me attempt to make that clear. LFL opposes any ART that inherently involves the destruction of human embryos or subjects them to hurt or harm. Such actions are clearly forbidden in the Fifth Commandment, "You shall not murder." Thus we oppose *in vitro* fertilization where embryos are graded and the little boys and girls who do not "make the grade" are destroyed. We oppose pre-implantation genetic diagnosis and the subsequent discarding of "unwanted" embryos. We oppose the freezing of these little ones

because of the harm it can do and because, as Dr. Weise states, "You cannot parent a frozen embryo."

The other issue involved in ART is marriage. LFL would oppose the use of donor eggs or donor sperm as this clearly violates the one flesh union of marriage. There seems to be less clarity when it comes to couples using *in vitro* fertilization with their own eggs and sperm. If all of the concerns above have been dealt with, that is, a minimum number of the wife's eggs are fertilized with the husband's sperm, none are graded or tested, and all are implanted, is it permissible for the Christian couple to use *in vitro*?



It comes down to how one defines the one flesh union. I cannot find consensus on this issue. Some would say that the above scenario is acceptable and using the couple's own egg and sperm does not violate the one flesh principle. Others would argue that one flesh union must include the actual physical act of intercourse. Still others would say that a third party is introduced into the union because a lab technician must bring

the sperm and eggs together in a Petri dish. LFL has not weighed in on the theological issue of precisely defining the one flesh union.

I refer our readers to an article on *in vitro* fertilization written by Dr. Richard Eyer. You can find it online at: www.lutheransforlife.org/Life_Issue_Info/Bioethics_and_Creation/in_vitro.htm. (The article is also available in a brochure. Item LFL1002T at www.lutheransforlife.org.)

I want to thank those who responded to the article. I very much appreciated your concern, how it was articulated, and the manner of Christian love that was exhibited.

Longing for Fatherhood

by Grace Kern
www.word-of-hope.org



When we think about men and abortion, many times we only hear about the stereotypical man who forces a woman to have an abortion, or who ends up abandoning his expecting girlfriend or wife. However, there are many roles men play in the abortion experience.

At **Word of Hope** we receive calls weekly from men who are desperately trying to prevent their girlfriend or wife from aborting. They are adamantly opposed to the procedure and are calling because they are trying to stop the abortion. They have begged their girlfriend to let them raise the child, or even to marry them. The man longs for fatherhood, and is excited about becoming a father. Many mention going to court to try to prevent the abortion.

These men call overwhelmed and desperate. It is hard for them to separate the feelings they are experiencing. These feelings can include sadness, grief, anger, and a sense that they can't protect their partner or their child. Many of these men say they have made repeated calls to their girlfriend or wife trying to understand why they think this is the right decision. Many women are being pres-

sured by other sources including mothers, friends or people they feel they can trust. We encourage the man to speak his heart to his partner. He may not be able to change the outcome, but his recovery will be easier if he honestly speaks his mind and heart and does everything he can to help stop the abortion.

Another call we receive is from men who first support the abortion but then change their minds. Most of the time, their partner

still goes on to have the abortion. These men hold themselves responsible in a way because at first they agreed. This seems to happen more often within marriages. This then can become an issue in their relationship that interferes with basic trust and can interfere with intimacy. When a couple cannot trust each other anymore it takes a great deal of counseling and mutual forgiveness before the couple can begin to heal. Sadly about 75 percent of these relationships end within five years following



the abortion.

Then, there are the men who are not told about the abortion until after it occurred. These men may react with confusion because their partner did not discuss this matter with them. He experiences many conflicting emotions, wrestling with their relationship and his lack of trust. It's even possible that he might not find out until years later.

Coleman and Nelson (1998) surveyed

college students and found that of those with a prior history of abortion, 51.6 percent of the male students reported feeling regret following the abortion. These authors suggested that men may “be more inclined to experience pronounced post-abortive effects than women, because the decision to abort is ultimately the females and the final decision opted for may not be congruent with the male’s choice.”

Who are these men? If we know who they are, we can better reach them. Many profess to be Christians, so they are in our churches. (In the Coleman and Nelson study 142 men responded).

- 45 percent of men said their partner chose to abort against their wishes
- 67 percent were between the age of 20 and 39 years old (average age 31)
- 57 percent were single
- 20 percent were married
- 30 percent had technical training/ Associate Degree
- 64 percent Christian

At **Word of Hope** we have found that no message better heals men struggling with abortion than the message of grace and forgiveness found in Christ’s death on the cross and His resurrection from the grave. When these men call us seeking help, it is our goal that they leave **Word of Hope** with an understanding of Christ’s forgiveness that knows no bounds.

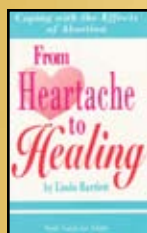
Though professional counseling may be needed, any member of a church can share this forgiving message with a man hurt by abortion. The disciple John shared this message with the world in 1 John 1:9 saying, **“God is faithful and reliable. If we confess our sins, he forgives them and cleanses us from everything we’ve done wrong”** *GOD’S WORD*. These are the most powerful Words of Hope.

After the abortion ...



After the Abortion There is Hope in His Healing, by Linda Bartlett, offers hope to those who are struggling with an abortion decision.

“Through the power of Christ’s death and resurrection, you are set free to rejoice in the newness of life!”
Item LFL405B. **\$1.00 ea.**



From Heartache to Healing – Author Linda Bartlett encourages us all to consider the reality of abortion and the ways in which the Church can minister to the needs of those who

suffer abortion’s effects. Item LFL401BS.
\$4.85 ea.



Hope in His Healing (Spanish) – Abortion may seem convenient, but anger, guilt, and despair are soon to follow. God doesn’t want us to carry the baggage of sin. Instead, He offers to set us free to rejoice in the newness of life! Spanish.
Item LFL403T. **\$0.25 ea.**



Word of Hope offers information on LFL’s post-abortion ministry, which offers confidential post-abortion counseling and reconciliation. **Note: Limit 25 copies.** For larger quantities call LFL.
Item LFL404T. **FREE**

Aborting the “Wrong” Baby?



by Albert Mohler

The news out of Sarasota, Florida caught many people by surprise. A doctor in the city has lost his license because he aborted what is now described as the “wrong” baby. Back in 2006, Dr. Matthew Kachinas had been asked to perform an abortion on a baby that had been identified as having Down syndrome and other congenital defects. Instead, the doctor aborted that baby’s healthy twin.

As reported in *The Miami Herald*: “A Sarasota doctor has lost his license for mistakenly aborting a healthy twin during a procedure targeting a deformed fetus. Immediately after the Florida Board of Medicine’s decision Saturday, Dr. Matthew Kachinas was involuntarily hospitalized because he said he planned to commit suicide. Kachinas had blamed faulty ultrasound equipment for the 2006 mistake. He was targeting a fetus with Down syndrome and signs of a heart defect.”

CBS News added further details: “The woman had asked the doctor to perform a selective termination procedure on the male fetus, which had congenital defects. An ultrasound later showed that the other fetus, a female that did not appear to have medical problems, had been terminated.”

What are we to make of this? We now know that the vast majority of babies identified prenatally as carrying the genetic markers for Down syndrome are aborted. National statistics indicate that 80-90 percent of such babies are now aborted—meaning that we have launched a search and destroy mission

on Down syndrome babies in the womb.

The situation with Dr. Kachinas reveals the horribly confused morality that marks modern America and, in far too many cases, the practice of medicine. This doctor was asked to perform what is now euphemistically called a “selective reduction.” Instead, he aborted “the wrong baby,” killing a healthy baby instead of the baby identified as carrying the markers for Down syndrome.

Consider what this means for the sanctity of human life. We are now looking at babies as consumer products. We will accept babies that meet our specified qualifications, and abort when medical tests or other factors reveal that the baby does not meet our standards. Human life is reduced to just another consumer product subject to consumer preferences and demand.



Do we recognize what this means? The abortion of Down syndrome babies is a scandal of the first degree, and this nation is growing more complacent and complicit in this scandal by the day. Beyond this, we can be

certain that babies are now being targeted in the womb for reasons far beyond Down syndrome. Specialists working with autism are concerned that forthcoming genetic tests will put babies who carry markers for autism next on the list for prenatal search and destroy missions.

This news story out of Florida is a warning to the entire nation. What is the real scandal here—that this doctor was ready to kill a baby with Down syndrome, or merely that he aborted “the wrong baby?”

The answer to that question will tell us all we need to know about the conscience of the age.

Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr., serves as president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. This commentary was originally posted at www.albertmohler.com.

Nebraska's Fetal Pain Law Could Face Long Legal Battle

Following the stunning passage of the first-of-its-kind pro-life bill into law in Nebraska that bans abortions at or after 20 weeks, sources say the Abortion Pain Prevention Act could likely take years before it goes into effect.

Mary Spaulding Balch, legislative director for National Right to Life, said a court injunction will likely prevent the October implementation of the law.

With an anticipated showdown in the U.S. Supreme Court, the law directly challenges the issue of "viability," a key tenet of the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision. Viability—the time when an unborn child can survive outside the womb [generally held to be at 22 to 24 weeks]—is the legal threshold at which states can ban abortion. Nebraska will ask the high court justices to take into account scientific research since *Roe* to push the timing back further.

Years after *Roe* was decided, research indicated fetal pain could be detected in unborn babies. Such research conducted a quarter-century ago by Oxford University's Kanwaljeet Anand shifted medical opinion about fetal pain.

Today, even the most premature newborns are given anesthesia to alleviate pain during surgery. Many other experts in medicine share Dr. Anand's findings—and have even offered testimony before Congress regarding pain factors involving unborn children after 20 weeks' gestation.

(Washington Examiner, 4/18; CLR Life News, 4/21)



Hurting from Abortion?
A Word of Hope can help.
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Confidential . . . Caring

Here's why taking a stand For Life matters:



In the United States alone, 3,500 unborn babies are killed through abortion every day.

Source: National Right to Life Committee



Everyday, women and men are left hurting and grieving due to an abortion decision.

Abortion's Slippery Slope Led to Killing Terri Schiavo

by Maria Vitale



I'll never forget where I was when I heard the awful news that Terri Schiavo had died.

I was on vacation, spending spring break with my daughter. And, while I relished the time I had with my little one, there was a sense of sadness, knowing that far away in Florida, a woman was being dehydrated and starved to death.

For me, the execution of Terri Schiavo is like President Kennedy's assassination—something so unbelievable, so tragic, the pain continues, long after the victim has been laid to rest.

Last year, during the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation's Celebrate Life Banquet, former Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline publicly apologized to Terri's brother, Bobby Schin-



dler, who had given a talk at the pro-life conference in Scranton earlier that day. In the banquet hall, before hundreds of people, Kline spoke of his deep sorrow about Terri's untimely death, and he said that he believed that Bobby deserved an apology.

If only the perpetrators of that death would apologize, too.

Five years after the tragedy, myths and misinformation abound. When I speak at schools and ask students what they know about the Terri Schiavo case, they tell me she was brain-dead and that she was a vegetable—neither of which is true. Media accounts repeat the falsehoods about her life and death.

A part of me is still mystified that our judicial system could allow the execution of an innocent individual, whose only crime was that she was disabled. In the land of the free, how could such a monstrosity occur?

And yet, another part of me is not surprised. After all, when I was in seventh grade, our pro-life teacher drew a line on the blackboard connecting the word "abortion" with the word "euthanasia." The killing of pre-born children leads to the killing of older people, people with disabilities, and people who are ill. Life is a tapestry, and when one thread has been pulled out by advocates of abortion, the rest of the threads begin to unravel.

The year of Terri Schiavo's death, 2005, can be traced to 1973, the year of the infamous *Roe v. Wade* court ruling legalizing abortion for any reason during all nine months of pregnancy.

The anniversary of Terri's demise should mean some soul-searching for our nation. Have we become so callous that we have no compassion for one who, while different from ourselves, is no less human?

Each time we see a picture of Terri, the phrase "never forget" should come to mind. We should never forget that a beautiful woman was struck down in the prime of life, just because her existence was no longer convenient, her life dismissed as unworthy.

If ever there was a victim of wrongful judgment, it was Terri Schiavo.

(LifeNews.com, 3/29)

Terri's brother, Bobby Schindler, was the keynote speaker at the 2009 LFL National Conference. CDs of his talk are available. Go to the LFL website and click on "Conference" for more info. Also check out the info on the 2010 conference!

Language Police



by Bradley Mattes

A rose by any other name is still a rose, but some organizations are determined to make the pro-life movement appear less than beautiful.

In a war of words, National Public Radio's managing editor, David Sweeney, recently issued an internal memo (www.lifeissues.org/breakingnews/2010/NPR_Memo.pdf) instructing reporters to stop saying "pro-life" and instead use the phrase "abortion rights opponents." And while staffers aren't permitted to say abortion supporters are "pro-abortion," they are free to call those of us in the pro-life community "anti-abortion." It's no small change. NPR is bent on framing the murder of the unborn

in a friendlier light while casting a negative spin on the pro-life cause.

They are not alone. The Associated Press, Washington Post, New York Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, CNN, CBS, and NBC have all adopted similar terminology. "What does pro-life mean? That leaves people scratching their heads," CBS Senior VP Linda Mason reportedly told NPR.

Perhaps the problem isn't that the words are confusing (most understand the meaning of pro-life), but too upsetting. Pro-abortion people don't like the idea of being identified with a movement that supports the inten-

tional killing of innocent preborn children. So under the guise of neutrality and shielded by the company of other major news organizations, editors recast the debate from life and death to an issue of rights.

"This updated policy is aimed at ensuring the words we speak and write are as clear, consistent and neutral as possible," Sweeney's memo said. But if abortion is going to be a rights issue, then why not portray pro-lifers—quite accurately—as fetal rights advocates? Perhaps that's too clear.

The language police are at work in the medical community, too. Just days after NPR's memo, Canadian Medical Association Journal editors urged doctors to ditch the

word euthanasia and "stop using such value-laden terms as starve and kill."

(Remember Terri Schiavo?)

Instead, they suggested, physicians should simply describe in neutral language what they intend to do and the possible im-

pacts of that action—like starve and kill their patients?

These organizations are engaging in what George Orwell called wordplay "designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable," but they're not fooling us anymore. Sugar might make the poison taste better, but it's still poison.

Bradley Mattes is the executive director of Life Issues Institute, www.lifeissues.org.



Jesus Loves ALL the Children



by Rev. Kevin Kritzer

Most of us have heard, and many of us have sung, *Jesus Loves the Little Children*. Perhaps you can sing along right now whether aloud or silently, if you fear you can't carry the tune (though that didn't stop me one Sunday).

*Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world,
Red and yellow, black and white
They are precious in His sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.*

Simple song, big assertion!

A very bold claim is made in this song. Jesus does not love SOME of the children of the world. He doesn't love MANY, or MOST but ALL the children of the world. Of course, this is not merely the lyrics of a children's song; it is the testimony of God's Word, Jesus loves the little children, **ALL** the little children of the world.

EVERYONE (not some, not most, and not many) **is precious in God's sight**. After all, everyone is a creation of God. Hence, **life is sacred**. The sanctity of human life:

- It is not just a slogan—it's a doctrine.
- It is not just an assertion—it is a confession.
- It is to be something that we do not merely reflect upon annually but act upon daily.

Life is INTRINSICALLY sacred; for it

is God's creation, God's gift, and God's doing. That means that no one can mope, "God loves them more than me." Nor can anyone claim, "God loves them, more than them, or more than you!"

God doesn't love Lutherans more than the Baptists. He doesn't love Americans more than Afghans. God does not love conservatives more than liberals or vice versa; girls more than boys or vice versa. He doesn't love Saints more than sinners, nor Vikings for that matter. He doesn't love those at the pulpit more than those in the pew. He doesn't love Angels more than ... Yankees. Now I don't understand that last one, I just know it to be true.

Jesus not only proclaimed the sanctity of life—He granted dignity to the living. Think of the ways Jesus elevated those He spent time with that were from the outskirts of society.

There was the woman at the well. She was forced to draw water when no one was around so that she could escape the jeers and glares of the self-righteous and eager to judge.

There were the lepers. They knew full well their lot in life. They saw their flesh decay daily; they lived segregated from family and society alike. As if that were not enough they

were forced to identify their affliction when they ventured out of the colony by calling attention to their plight, "Unclean, unclean, unclean."

Yet, Jesus didn't stay on the other side of the street; He reached out to them in love and touched them with His hand when He could have simply healed them with a word from a distance. After all, that is how He healed the Roman Centurion's servant. The Centurion was an invader and an occupier, yet when he pleaded for Jesus' action he simultaneously acknowledges his unworthiness and Jesus'



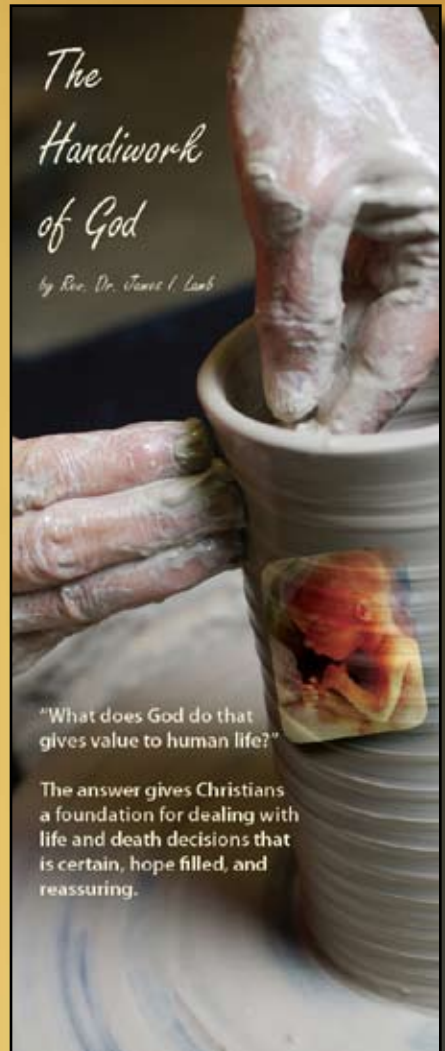
power to get the job done without ever making a personal appearance. “Such faith I have not seen in any of Israel’s Sons.” Jesus over and over again granted dignity to the living.

Life is intrinsically sacred but it is intentionally dignified. The sanctity of life is intrinsically possessed for it is God’s creation. The dignity of life, however, is intentionally afforded by human action.

I read a story last fall about the Cowboy’s quarterback, Tony Romo. On his way to the movie box office on a hot Texas night, he saw a homeless man panhandling for change. Romo asked him what he was going to do with the money. The man said, “I’m gonna go in the theater and get out of this heat.” “Come on,” the quarterback said, “I’ll buy you a ticket.” He took the man to the concession stand as well. The man was very touched, thanked Romo earnestly, and then started to walk away. “Where you going?” said the quarterback. “I got a ticket too we’ll sit together.” As if a leper forced to call out his condition the man pitifully said, “I stink you don’t want to sit by me.” “You’ve obviously never been in an NFL locker room,” Romo replied. Then they watched the movie together. The gift given that man that day was more than a momentary escape from torridity; it was the gift of dignity.

Jesus cares for life at all stages; we are called to do the same. We are called to see it protected in the womb and see it supported in the world. The Church is called to stand up for the ALL of God’s children, from the unborn to the underprivileged. While doing the former we dare not abort our calling to the latter. While we do the latter we must assert it flows from our understanding of the former. The sanctity of human life is intrinsically possessed for it is God’s creation. The dignity of human life is intentionally afforded through our actions in response to who “ALL” are—people precious in His sight.

(Bethany Bullet, Bethany Lutheran Church, Long Beach, California)



The Handiwork of God tells us that the value of human life comes from what God has done and continues to do! Life is His **handiwork!** He creates life with His hands. He redeemed life with His hands. He holds His children by the hand.

When we understand these answers, then, as we confront difficult issues, some questions won’t even need to be asked. This is a wonderful resource for both congregational and school use!

Brochure.

Item LFL1007T. **\$0.25 ea.**

The Gift of Conception

by Karen Frohwein



I have always loved the story of Ruth—her faithfulness to her mother-in-law, Naomi, and the wonderful confession Ruth makes that begins with **“For where you go I will go ...”** (Ruth 1:16-17). I love knowing of Ruth’s desire to live as one of God’s people and Boaz’ kindness and fidelity to the Lord to the point that he was willing serve as Naomi’s and Ruth’s redeemer and marry Ruth, knowing that a son born to them would not be considered his own (Ruth 4:10). And, because of her faithfulness, Ruth is one of only four women listed in Matthew’s lineage of Christ, as David’s great-grandmother.

Ruth 4 tells us how Boaz and Ruth were married and came together as God intended to create a child. This wasn’t an unusual situation. Ruth wasn’t beyond childbearing years like Sarah or Elizabeth. She wasn’t a virgin like Mary. However, while God’s Word in the book of Ruth tells us that Ruth and Boaz went through the biological process necessary to create a child, **“The LORD gave her conception”** (Ruth 4:13b).

We often talk about the gift of children, but how often do we consider God’s gift of conception? Not something we earn, or a punishment, but a gift from our loving God?

In the Old Testament, God’s people awaited the Messiah. Every pregnancy raised the question, “Will this child be the Messiah or the mother of the Messiah?” Perhaps they valued those pregnancies more because of that promise. Of course, Mary was given the gift of conception and carried that promised

Messiah from that moment. As Elizabeth cried out in Luke 1:42 and Mary sang in The Magnificat (v. 46-55), this conception was a blessing, a part of God’s plan for all mankind.

What about today’s world? When we hear of pregnancies that are too close together or too far apart, or the mother is too young or too old, or the pregnancy will make a family too large in the world’s view, how do we as pro-life Christians respond? Do we join in with the comments like, “Don’t they know how that happens?” or, “Was that planned?” or, “That’s too many children for one family!”?

What if we, as witnesses to God’s Word, make a concerted effort to stop using the term “unplanned pregnancy”? Just as we say “every child a wanted child,” perhaps we can make a change by affirming “every pregnancy a planned pregnancy.”

In our sinful world, conception has become only a biological process that we think we can control. We think adding children to a family is up to us—or is the result of an accident. If we are to be

truly pro-life, we must witness to the fact that every conception is a gift from God. No, we no longer wait for the Messiah like Ruth, and there will never again be a conception like Mary’s. But, we live in the time where we have proof that there is a plan for each life at the moment of conception. It is a plan bigger than becoming a great athlete, or even the president of the United States. It’s God’s plan of salvation for all of His children. It is the plan of salvation carried out for all of us by Christ on the cross. Let’s witness to that plan by treasuring God’s gift of conception.

Karen Frohwein is the Child Care Resource and Referral Coordinator for Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc., and serves on the board of directors of LFL of Iowa.



Reflections on Jeremiah 29 and Psalm 139



by Rev. Mark Jeske

Do you ever find God's ways confusing? By now you've lived long enough to have been hurt many times. Sometimes you have to wonder if God is really on your side or not.

But that's one of the things I have really come to love about God. As I get older I see more and more that the Lord really knows exactly what he's doing in my life. He says in Jeremiah 29, **"I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you"** (NIV).

God knows exactly what he's doing for you. Let Him lead you closer to Him each day!



Everybody, and I mean everybody, is lookin' for love. I've never met anybody who had enough. We're all somewhat insecure about being loved. You know what's worse? Not knowing for sure if God loves you. You can take great comfort in knowing that your life is not the result of some random string of evolutionary coincidences.

The Bible tells you that God in love designed your very existence. Psalm 139 says, **"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made"** (NIV).

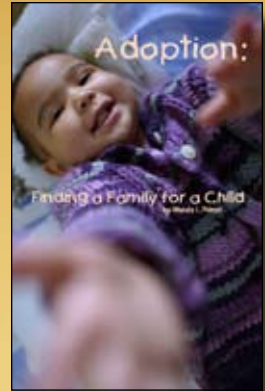
You can be sure, wherever you go and whatever happens to you, that your Creator loves you dearly.

(From *Grace Moments*, 3/25/10 and 12/23/09. Used by permission. www.timeofgrace.org)

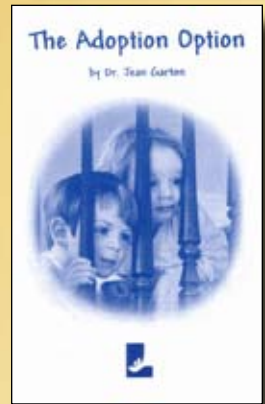
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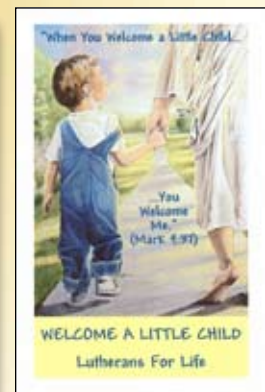


**The Adoption
Option** by Dr.
Jean Garton.
Item LFL500B.
\$1.00 ea.



BROCHURE

**The
Servanthood
of Adoption**
– There is a
need to shed
some good light
on adoption
by looking at
adoption in the
light of biblical servanthood.
Item LFL501T. \$0.25 ea.



BULLETIN INSERT

Welcome a Little Child.
Item LFL500BI. \$0.07 ea.

They're Not the Problem, We Are!

by Linda D. Bartlett
www.titus2-4life.org



It's natural. The "younger" among us have always believed themselves to be more enlightened than the "older." Young women, for example, consider themselves more "progressive" than their mothers or grandmothers. Young women want to leave the "old ways" behind. Some younger women sincerely desire to learn from an older woman, yet allow themselves plenty of wiggle room, noting: "The culture is different than it was when you were my age."

Well, the culture is always changing. But Truth never changes. Truth is a preserver of reason, order, and hope for those tossed in a sea of change.

The "younger" may naturally resist mentoring. I'm not surprised. But I am surprised and disappointed when the "older" women resist the call to mentor, whether it's to someone younger in age, experience, or spiritual maturity. Maybe resistance of mentoring is not so much the problem of the "younger," but of the "older." If so, why might this be?

Perhaps we older women are afraid to mentor because it means acting our age. Perhaps we're afraid to mentor because it means re-visiting past mistakes and becoming vulnerable all over again. Perhaps we're afraid to mentor because we fear rejection.

Some of us may be afraid to mentor because we are untrained. Perhaps no one men-

tored us with God's Word. Perhaps someone we trusted more than God intentionally or unintentionally led us off the good path of life. I ponder my own generation of "baby boomers." A great many women of my generation were raised with no boundaries; told to obsess on our bodies; groomed to compete with men; and sent to the university where foundational institutions of marriage, family, and church were attacked. Is it any wonder that women of my generation may feel ill-equipped to mentor biblical womanhood?

How can I mentor if I'm afraid to act my age? If I don't want to accept where I'm at in life? If I'm afraid to re-visit my past and admit my failures? If I'm afraid of rejection? If I'm afraid I'm not "good" enough? In other words, how can I mentor if "it's all about me"?

Ahhh. Those younger than me really aren't the problem. I am. I can't mentor if "it's all about me." I can't make a positive difference in my world if "it's all about me." I can, however, positively impact the lives of others when I stop obsessing on my fallen self and

trust who I am in Christ.

We are God's creation. Women are daughters of Eve. Men are sons of Adam. (At a Titus 2 Retreat, we discover what this means by carefully studying Genesis 1-3.) We are people for whom Christ died. Our value is the price Jesus paid. We exist to behold God—and to glorify God. **"Let your light shine ... and give glory to your Father"** (Matthew 5:16). **"Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God"** (1 Corinthians 10:31). **"To [God] be the glory forever and ever. Amen"** (2 Timothy 4:18).



Feeble and fallen humans do not have the wisdom to mentor. But, feeble, fallen humans forgiven and set free in Christ are new creatures. Jesus is the one **“in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”** (Colossians 2:3). Christ is **“the wisdom of God”** (1 Corinthians 1:24).

I think God wants me to accept my age, my experiences, my failures. Making use of these, He wants me to warn, train, and encourage the younger women He places in my life. Trusting God’s Word and using it makes me wise. Willing. Confident. Less focused on self and more focused on others.

During a Titus 2 Retreat—and sometimes long after—women are encouraged to be wise in Christ, recognize deception, and leave foolish ways behind. Trusting God’s Word, they find confidence to mentor those younger in age, experience, or spiritual maturity. Three years after one retreat, a 40-something woman wrote, “I thank God that you came into my life and brought with you healing, acceptance, and guidance. Thank you for helping me let go of the junk that happened to me, pointing me to God’s good path, and encouraging me to see myself as His new creation.”

A wife and mom married 20-some years often feels herself overwhelmed with doubt. In her fear, she becomes paralyzed. During a recent phone call, she said, “You mentor by validating my feelings, yet never compromising truth. You suggest a change of attitude and offer positive things to do.”

What is that change of attitude? It’s realizing that it’s not “about me”—it’s about God and what He can do for others through me (Romans 12:2).

What are the positive things we can do? We can trust the Potter of our lives (Isaiah 64:8), switch focus from our disappointments to our blessings (Psalms 100:5), leave old ways behind (Isaiah 43:18-19), be self-controlled and alert (1 Peter 5:8), persevere (Hebrews 12:1-2), expose silly myths and

train for godliness (1 Timothy 4:7-10).

An older woman wisely mentors a younger woman by helping her trust God’s Word rather than her own emotions or feelings. Feelings are fickle and lead to harmful choices like sexual intimacy outside of marriage. This kind of sexual intimacy too often results in multiple partners, loss of respect for self and others, non-curable sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and the loss of life through abortion.

“But,” cries the older woman, “that was me!” Women who doubted God and were deceived by other voices, who live with STDs, who’ve been hurt by men, and who mourn an aborted child, come to Titus 2 Retreats. These women are rescued daughters of Eve, ready to expose deceit, leave old ways behind, find contentment, and be encouraged and equipped to mentor others away from despair toward a future of hope.

“Titus 2,” observed a 50-something woman, “welcomes women with all kinds of backgrounds into a safe environment. Foolishness is tenderly exposed. For some, healing begins for the first time. For others, hope is renewed. All are challenged to be available mentors in the hands of God.”

It is true that we can commiserate with those who are at the same place in life as us. But, we are better encouraged—or warned—by the seasoned traveler on the journey of life, the one who has been on this road or that.

Now is not the time for the older and more experienced to opt out. It is not the time for sound judgment to be skewed as “judgmental” nor to abandon the wisdom of age and bow at the fountain of youth. It is not the time to be held captive by wrong choices of the past. It is not the time to focus on “me,” my weakness, my failures, my fears.

It is time to live confident that God is at work (Philippians 2:13) in us and through us for others.

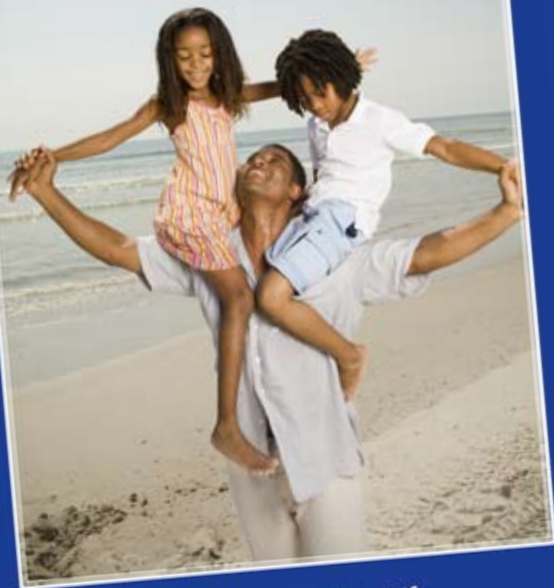
To learn more about Titus 2 for Life, or schedule a retreat, please e-mail lindabartlett@mchsi.com.

Share Good News For Life on Father's Day!



Happy Father's Day!

“He will turn the hearts of fathers
to their children and the hearts of
children to their fathers.”
(Malachi 4:6a)



 Lutherans For Life

A Father's Heart is our brand-new bulletin insert for Father's Day!

“God loves fathers. He is one! He is the Father of Jesus Christ and His love for fathers flows through His Son. Through Jesus, fathers understand they live in grace.

“This is where they find the love, motivation, and strength to turn their hearts to their children. This is where they find forgiveness when they fail and the courage they need to try again.”

Item LFL1112BI. **\$0.07 ea.**

Also available!

Biblical Manhood –

To be truly a man, biblically, we must commit ourselves with the will and the strength that only God can give us—to the pursuit of godliness. By Dr. Francis Monseth.

Item LFL304B. **\$2.00 ea.**



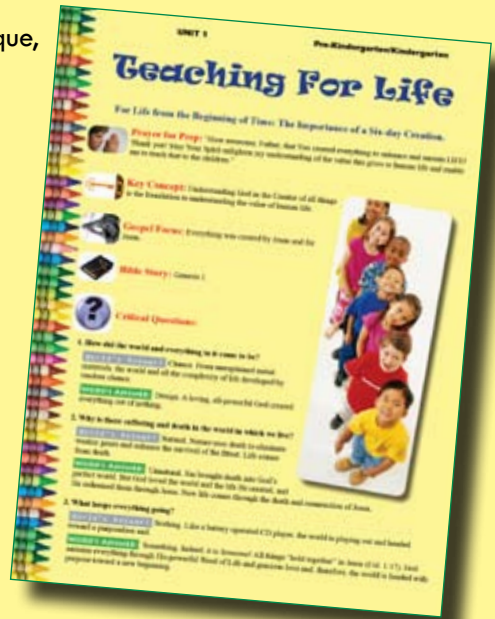
Teaching For Life®

Teaching For Life® is a unique, Gospel-centered, positive way to help Lutheran school teachers apply God's Word to the life issues!

Teaching For Life® teaches nine key pro-life concepts—one for each month of the school year—by giving ideas on how to integrate them into religion, math, social studies, language arts, and more.

Each **Teaching For Life®** package includes a CD which provides additional resources, commentary, and teaching tools.

[www.lutheransforlife.org/
Teaching_For_Life.htm](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/Teaching_For_Life.htm)



Consider purchasing **Teaching For Life®** for your favorite teacher or school!

"I like the variety of different ways you can integrate the key concepts in your day."

"The activities were diverse and applied to a wide variety of curricular areas. I appreciated how the lessons were laid out in a step-by-step manner."

"I liked the variety of choices in each curriculum area. It was easy to fit at least one activity in."

"The teachers' guide was well prepared and looked great!"

"I like that there were activities to incorporate in all subject areas. I enjoyed hands-on activities."

"I appreciated the age-appropriateness of the material."

Lesson Plans and CD

Grades PK-K. Item LFL720C. \$49.99 ea.

Grades 1-2. Item LFL721C. \$49.99 ea.

Grades 3-4. Item LFL723C. \$49.99 ea.

Grades 5-6. Item LFL725C. \$49.99 ea.

Grades 7-8. Item LFL727C. \$49.99 ea.

Complete **Teaching For Life®** package: 45 lesson plans and CD for all grade levels: Item LFL729C. \$199.99 ea.

The entire **Teaching For Life®** package includes 45 lessons for five grade levels (PK-K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8). It comes in a sturdy 8.25" x 11" full color tri-fold format, providing the teacher with all that is needed to teach a key life concept each month in a variety of ways.

[www.lutheransforlife.org/
Teaching_For_Life.htm](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/Teaching_For_Life.htm)

Bring Good News to Life at the 2010 National Lutherans For Life Conference!



Tundra Lodge Resort,
Green Bay, Wisconsin



Keynote Speaker:

Wesley J. Smith,
bioethicist



Other great speakers include:

- Renee Gibbs
- Rev. Dr. Jeff Gibbs
- Kim Ketola
- Anthony Horvath
- Rev. Mark Erickson
- Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb
- Dr. Ryan MacPherson
- Alan Shlemon
- Dr. Kevin Voss

*See the LFL website to find out how
you can receive a Complimentary
Registration by sending in Witness
Sponsorships!*

Two pre-conference events Friday, July 23!

At 2:30, Kay L. Meyer, LFL's director of development, will lead a presentation on how LFL volunteers can raise financial support for their state federations, local LFL chapters, national LFL, and other non-profit organizations.

At 3:45: **Young People's Brainstorming (for ages 14-30)**. Come and storm your brains about ways LFL can better serve your generation. We need your help! Free snacks!

Opening Worship begins at 5:00!

At 6:30, the Banquet and Keynote Address will feature noted bioethicist Wesley J. Smith!

Comments from 2009:

"I was moved by the dedication of those present to champion LIFE and to give God the Glory. The workshops were informative and helpful. It was worthwhile!!!!"

"Excellent conference!"

BEST WAY TO REGISTER: Online at www.lutheransforlife.org

Scientists should stop killing and abusing human beings in experiments, says the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC). SPUC was responding to the news that scientists in Newcastle, England, have created embryos using genetic material from two women and one man in order to address mitochondrial diseases. Anthony Ozimic, SPUC's communications manager, commented: "None of the 80 or more embryos created by the Newcastle team were allowed to live. Each of those embryos were members of the human family, with a right to life equal to those of the scientists who killed them. Human life begins at conception. Any grounds for denying human rights to human embryos are arbitrary and self-serving ... Creating embryonic children in the laboratory abuses them, by subjecting them to unnatural processes. As with IVF and cloning, this mitochondrial technique may well lead to developmental abnormalities ... Scientists should respect human life and pursue ethical alternatives which are much more likely to be successful in the long-term." (SPUC, 4/15)

The BBC has reported that organs may have been removed from deceased people without their consent, due to a data-handling error by the National Health Service, UK. Reports say that as many as 800,000 people may have had their wishes recorded inaccurately and that 20 families have let organs be taken from their relatives based on incorrect information. The NHS Blood and Transplant has said it is urgently investigating. (BBC, 4/10; SPUC, 4/13)

The Kenyan Parliament has voted in favor of a draft constitution which on the one hand recognizes the right to life from conception, but also incorporates a right to abortion, reports Patrick Buckley, director of European Life Network. The new constitution allows for abortion when in the "opinion of a trained health professional, there is need for emergency treatment, or the life or health of the mother is in danger, or if permitted by any other written law." The new Constitution will now be put to the people in a referendum and, Mr. Buckley says, if it is approved in its present form will undoubtedly open the door to abortion on demand. (Patrick Buckley, 4/2; SPUC, 4/13)



Ten thousand young people in Ecuador have promised to remain chaste and to defend life from conception until natural death. The young people made the promise at an event organized by Prolife Action, Ecuador. Amparo Medina, the event organizer, said, "[w]e will hold these events again in support of the lives of our children and our families for an Ecuador free of the empire of death, contraception and abortion." (Catholic News Agency, 4/5; SPUC, 4/13)

The Chinese state media has reported that authorities have detained 1,300 people in order to sterilize them. This is part of a 20-day campaign to sterilize almost 10,000 people suspected of planning to break the strict Chinese family-planning laws. (Daily Mail, 4/16; SPUC, 4/13)

A survey of the Republic of Ireland shows that 70 percent of Irish people support the constitutional protection for the unborn, including the prohibition of abortion. One pro-life leader

said the "hugely reassuring" results show "overwhelming public support" for unborn children and their mothers. The Pro-Life Campaign's Dr. Berry Kiely said, "Some abortion advocates claim that legalized abortion 'confronts the reality of crisis pregnancy.' However, this contention ignores the humanity of the unborn child throughout the entire nine months of pregnancy

and the latest research highlighting the negative consequences of abortion for women ... If we are to have a genuinely honest debate on abortion we cannot arbitrarily airbrush the unborn child out of the debate or the many testimonies of women who regret their abortions ... All human beings share a common dignity by virtue of their humanity. To deny the right to life simply because the unborn child is at an early stage of development completely undermines an authentic vision of human rights," Kiely commented. She also said Ireland should be "immensely proud" that it is currently listed as the safest country in the world for pregnant women by the latest U.N. survey on maternal health. (Catholic News Agency, 4/20)

Unless otherwise noted, World News summaries are from the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) based in London, England: www.spuc.org.uk.

Bringing Good News to Life



by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

Could you use a little good news?
Words from the Servant/Messiah in Isaiah
61:1-3:

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

Do you notice anything about this Good News the Messiah would bring? It is more than nice sounding words spewed forth into the air. This Good News does things! It binds up broken hearts and frees those who are bound. It changes mourning into gladness and faint spirits into praising ones. It changes the weak and wavering into "oaks of righteousness." This Good News is "living and active" (Hebrews 4:12) and does not return without accomplishing something (Isaiah 55:11).

Bad News

Could you use a little good news? Life confronts us with so much bad news these days. The world teaches children they're no

different than animals. The world teaches youth that sex is causal, marriage optional, and gender is neutral. The world attacks the younger generation on college campuses and challenges their faith and beliefs. The world says the most compassionate way to help women experiencing a crisis pregnancy is to kill her child. The world says the most compassionate way to help people with disabilities or chronic disease or the effects of aging is to have assisted suicide and euthanasia legal and readily available.

Bringing Good News to Life Does Things!

You more mature readers will remember that General Electric used to advertise that they "Bring Good Things to Life." Maybe you can still even sing the jingle! At Lutherans For Life, we desire to Bring Good News to Life and to equip God's people to do the same. Because the Good News of Jesus Christ does things, we want to connect it to the life issues so that people's hearts and minds and lives will be changed.

Value: Bringing Good News to life does things. It brings value to life. Human worth does not come from human abilities. It comes from God. That's good news! It means our value is objective and does not depend upon our location or level of development or state of consciousness. Born or unborn, young or old, aware or not—our life matters because of what God has done and continues to do. He creates each and every life knitting us together in our mothers' wombs (Psalm 139:13-14). He purchased every life with the price of His own son and His precious blood shed upon the cross (1 Peter 1:18-19). He desires to call every life into an eternal relationship with Him (1 Timothy 2:4).

Transformation: Bringing Good News to life does things. It brings transformation to life. That's good news! It transforms us into

a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). We can renew our minds (Romans 12:2). We can put our minds on things above (Colossians 3:2). We can make good, God-pleasing decisions not just based on what we should or shouldn't do, but as fruit produced because of whose we are.

Peace: Bringing Good News to life does things. It brings peace. That's good news when we face fearful and frightening situations (Luke 12:32). The pregnant teen can be given the peace that God's forgiveness brings (Romans 5:1). She can be given His strength as He reaches out to her through His body the Church and provides for her and her baby's needs.

Forgiveness: Bringing Good News to life does things. It brings forgiveness. That's good news for us all and especially for those weighed down by the shame and regret of a past abortion. It brings a message of "no condemnation" (Romans 8:1). It brings the only message that can reach into the deep darkness of sin and bring people back into the light (John 12:46).

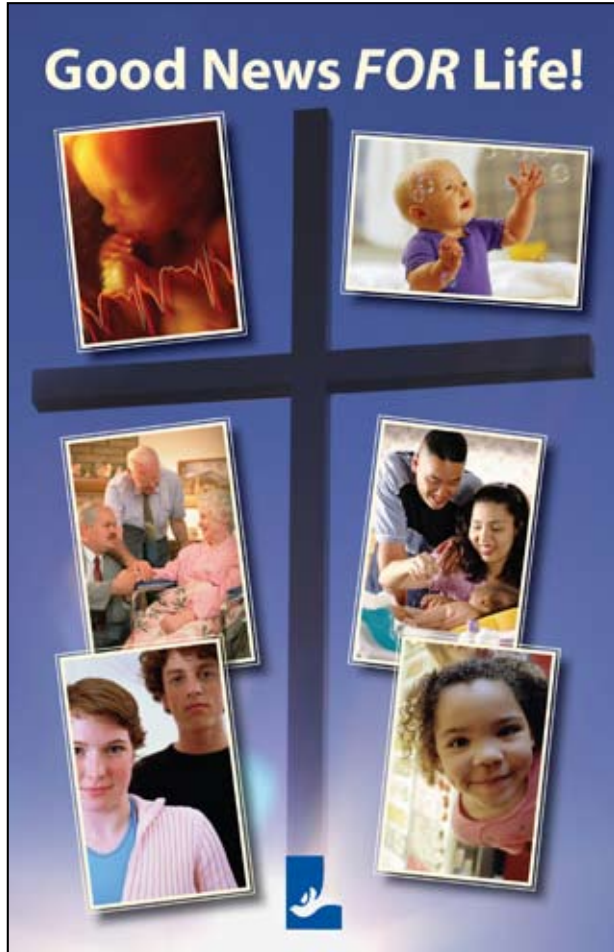
Meaning: Bringing Good News to life does things. It brings meaning and purpose into people's lives. That's good news! We've all

heard grandma say, "Why does God keep me around?" He knows why! (Jeremiah 29:11) We know it would be "better by far" to depart and be with Christ (Philippians 1:23). But it also might be "more necessary" to remain in the body (Philippians 1:24). God determines the "more necessary." As long as He gives life, He gives life meaning and purpose.

Hope: Bringing Good News to life does things. It brings hope and comfort to the sorrow filled. That's good news! Dealing with death and dying is not easy. But we have a God who knows about suffering and death because He suffered and died! (Hebrews 4:15). Because of the suffering and death of Jesus, we have the living hope of glories to come (Romans 8:18). We live in hope because we know that even now He is present and at work in our suf-

fering (Romans 8:28, 32).

Could you use a little good news? We have the best Good News in the world in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It does things! It changes things! It changes lives! Rejoice in this Good News! Share this Good News! Bring this Good News to life!



The Good News—A Gift from God to Claim and Proclaim!

by Kay L. Meyer



My husband and I love to visit our grandchildren and have them visit us. Recently when our daughter, son-in-law, and three grandchildren traveled to see us Coreen shared, “Grandma, Elizabeth wants to be a singer just like her papa when she grows up.”

My son-in-law, David Jander, is the Director of Worship at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas. “Lizzy, why don’t you sing one of the songs you sang in the car on the way to visit grandma and grandpa?” Lizzy, who is six years old, began singing “God is Always Good.”

Her sweet, precious voice was an encouragement for my husband and me and our 32-year old son who has cancer. Her song encouraged us in our faith journey. Her words about God’s love for us reminded us anew of the Good News we possess because of our faith in Christ. It is a gift from God that we can claim and proclaim. Let’s not forgot, our children and grandchildren can also bring Good News to Life.

Speaking of my family, some of you may be aware that we have gone through some serious trials during the past year. Our oldest son, Kevin, passed from this life to the next (John 11:25) suddenly in the fall of 2009. Within weeks of his death we learned our

youngest son, Jeff, had a cancerous sarcoma in the muscle of his thigh. Surgery was scheduled, but a few days before the surgery during pre-op tests at the hospital we were told the cancer had spread to his lungs. They canceled the surgery and instead began chemo and radiation treatments. We continue to pray and invite others to pray for healing, for stronger faith, and strength for Jeff and our family.

My family isn’t the only one that struggles with trials and tribulations. I know that many of you who are committed to life are also struggling with family and life issues. One reason I know is because I talk with many of you as I make telephone calls to say “thank you” for your financial gifts to Lutherans For

Life. When I make these calls, I often ask about your prayer needs. Prayer helps us bring the Good News about our Savior to Life. Not because prayer in and of itself is powerful, but because

If you are a grandparent, take heart! You have great influence on the faith life of your grandchildren.



the Lord who answers our prayers is powerful. And He tells us to pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

So we pray for our children and grandchildren to come to faith and grow in faith, for a premature baby, for a pregnant single woman, for parents who are expecting a baby, for those who are in the midst of an adoption, for those who are at life’s end, for those struggling with infertility, for those facing serious illness, and for those who are raising special children.

Have you ever thought about the fact that prayer is one way we can share the good news of life with others?

In my book *Witnessing—A Lifestyle* (www.lutheransforlife.org)

familyshieldministries.com/books.html) I write about the importance of prayer, how to use it in sharing the Good News, and how we can learn to share the Good News of the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life with family, friends, and those we meet in our daily lives. I also write about the impact and influence grandparents have on **Bringing Good News to Life** in their grandchildren's lives. The following is from this book.

“We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done” (Psalm 78:4).

Have you ever noticed that grandparents are often the ones who share their faith with grandchildren? Sometimes parents aren't interested in attending church, reading the Bible, praying, or passing on the faith to the next generation. If you are a grandparent, take heart! You have great influence on the faith life of your grandchildren. Don't take this responsibility lightly!

I recently heard the following story while teaching a Bible study class.

“I'm active in church and a follower of Jesus because of the love and prayers of my grandmother. When I was young, my grandmother took me to church and Sunday school. She read me children's Bible stories. She taught me how to pray. During high school I got involved in drugs and alcohol. I stopped going to church with my grandma. My life went from bad to worse. After I graduated from high school it didn't get better. I went from one dead-end job to another. Then I met my husband. We got married and soon had three children. I loved my husband and children. I knew I was going nowhere fast. I finally asked God to help me clean up my life. I began going to meetings to deal with my

addictions. During all those years, my mom didn't help. She'd just scream at me and tell me what a mess I was. But I could always talk with my grandma. I knew she loved me, even though she didn't approve of my lifestyle. Every time I'd visit her she would listen and tell me, 'Kitty, I'm praying for you!' God answered her prayers and mine. Today my husband and I are happily married, we have three great children, and we worship the Lord each week at a local congregation. I'm so glad my grandmother shared her faith with me!”

Are you a grandparent? Then consider how you can share the Good News with your children and grandchildren. Are you thankful for your grandmother and grandfather? Why not take time now to call or send a note to thank them for bringing the Good News of Christ into your life? And, if they have already passed from this life to the next then consider making a memorial gift to Lutherans For Life in their name.

It is because you and I care about life from the womb to the tomb that we support Lutherans For Life with our time, talents, and treasures. **Thank you for your ongoing support of Lutherans For Life as together we Bring Good News to Life!**

Your financial support changes hearts and lives! In just one day in March 2010, soon after our Easter appeal letter was mailed, the Life Center in Iowa received almost 80 donations from our donors. One gift was 12 cents from a donor who resides in a home for the disabled and another was \$10,000 from one of our longtime committed donors. As the staff gathered for devotions that morning, Dr. Lamb gave thanks for these gifts and the individuals who care enough to support Lutherans For Life. Your gifts, whether small or larger, allow us to accomplish our vision and mission. Thank you!

Renewal For Life® – What You Can Do!

by Jerilyn Richard,
RFL Coordinator



“What is the purpose of Renewal For Life?” Our mission statement—**Impacting Lutheran congregations to be Christ-centered, enthusiastic, and ongoing voices for life**—speaks of our goal and purpose of sharing Renewal For Life® and the For life message. How does it affect you and what is your part in it?

Since sharing the For Life message is the responsibility of the Church and her pastors, these are the questions each of us need to ask ourselves and our pastor. “How do we get started in our congregation?” and “What can I do?” are the most common questions. There is a desire for God’s people to do something to make a difference for life, but deciding how to begin can be challenging. Lutherans For Life is here to encourage and help pastors and congregations fulfill that mission, through Renewal For Life®.

At a recent conference a pastor spoke of how he now has a Life Advocate in his con-

gregation and the difference it has made:

“It’s not up to me anymore to see that things happen and that’s great. It was too easy for me to let things get lost in my busyness. But she holds me accountable and helps us with ideas. For example, she shared with me the new LFL Mother’s Day insert.”

This is exactly our vision for RFL!

We have realized signing up to be a Life Advocate or Life Advocate team is the easy part. What to do after that is the real challenge! So, we have put in place video training on the Renewal For Life® website to help you get started. We will provide frequent guides and suggestions on what you can do in your congregation.

There are a lot of changes, *good* changes, coming soon with Renewal For Life. There is a new, more enhanced, RFL website in the works! The more user-friendly audio/visual link, the Life Advocate training link, and the Forum for pastors to communicate with each other on the concerns with the various life issues, will be easily accessible.

If you haven’t yet answered the question, “What can I do?” I would encourage you to prayerfully consider speaking to your pastor regarding Renewal For Life, or, if you are a pastor, to form a Life Team in your congregation. National LFL will help network the congregation’s Life Team with our already existing grassroots structure. They can help congregations with both in-reach and out-reach when it comes to sharing God’s great message of life.

Together we can implement the life-affirming message of the Gospel into your congregation, and watch the work of Lord change hearts and lives for His name’s sake.



Check out our
LifeTube® page at:
www.lutheransforlife.org

LFL 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.

Go to www.lutheransforlife.org/Who_Are_We/Speakers_Bureau.htm to find out more!

Staff speaker: James I. Lamb

Affiliated speakers:

Jean Amundson

Linda D. Bartlett

Paul M. Clark

Connie Davis

John Eidsmoe

Peter B. Greenspan

Anthony Horvath

Kimberly Ketola

Sheila Luck

Ryan C. MacPherson

Betty McGuire

Allen Quist

Russell E. Saltzman

Alvin J. Schmidt

Carl F. Schroeder

Diane E. Schroeder

Ed Szeto

“These speakers not only address a variety of life issues, but do so based on the Word of God.” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb*

How Can You Provide For Your Family, Loved Ones, and LFL?

Lutherans For Life staff can assist you in getting connected to planned gift experts in your area. These experts can offer you comprehensive, charitable expertise and services to help you provide for your family, loved ones, and ministries like Lutherans For Life.

Annually, thousands of faithful Christians just like you support a variety of Lutheran ministries through:

- Gift Annuities
- Direct Gifts
- Wills
- Family Gift Funds
- Endowments and Trusts

Contact Kay Meyer at 515-441-6571 or kmeyer@lutheransforlife.org.

I would like more information about how I can bless my family and my favorite ministries for generations to come.

I would like more information about how I can support Lutherans For Life.

I would like to have someone review my current will or estate plan.

Send information on: gift annuities family gift funds endowment fund charitable trusts Christian will preambles bequests

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Send to LFL (see address on page 2).

LFL and Concordia Publishing House



by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

“Concordia Publishing House works for us now” is how I like to put it! While that is a bit tongue-in-cheek, it’s not completely false. In March, Lutherans For Life (LFL) accepted a proposal from Concordia Publishing House (CPH) in St. Louis to be our agent for housing and distributing our materials. The changeover occurred on March 29.

This came about as we started looking into more efficient ways to take and fulfill orders here at LFL. We researched various software and hardware packages and that eventually led us to CPH. CPH has a state of the art system and has won awards for its effectiveness and efficiency. We soon realized that it would not be prudent for us to purchase the equipment necessary to do what they do. But those conversations with CPH also led to mutual interest in exploring the opportunity of a partnership. That partnership has now been realized.

The best part of this arrangement is that LFL materials will be marketed in ways we would never be able to do on our own. We will have a prominent place on their website and eventually in their catalog. LFL materials will also be featured within the CPH site.

For example, when you click on “Bibles,” you will see the Bibles CPH has to offer as well as LFL’s *GOD’S WORD for Life* Bible! We are able to add flyers to the hundreds of orders they fill every day advertising our materials. When CPH displays at dozens of conferences and conventions each year, LFL

materials will be part of that display. The list of marketing opportunities could go on. Plus, CPH will handle all invoicing and keep track of all inventories and report to us all sales and any new customers. We can then add these to our mailing list. This will free up LFL staff allowing us to concentrate on other vital aspects of our ministry.

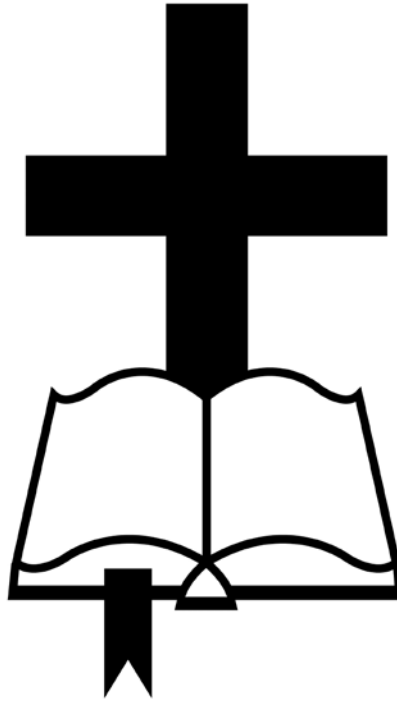
The partnership is a big change for us at the Life Center but not so much for those who order our materials. Nothing about our materials will change. We have complete control over content and pricing. As I said, CPH “works for us now”! To order, go to www.cph.org and on the left menu, click on “Sanctity of Life” and you will see LFL’s catalog materials.

You will be able to order through our website www.lutheransforlife.org. You would click on “Catalog,” as before, and you will be in our catalog, but on the CPH site. You can call CPH at 800-325-3040 and order from our catalog using our item numbers. Although CPH Customer Service Reps will receive training regarding our materials, you can still call LFL at 888-364-5433 if you have questions or need advice about what to order or just want to visit with our friendly staff! If you decide what you want to order, we won’t make you hang up and call CPH. Through the wonders of cyberspace, we will place your order for you and it will be shipped from CPH.

We look forward to this continuing partnership with CPH. It is good stewardship of our resources and will provide a much greater market for our materials resulting in better and more efficient service to LFL leaders, members, and congregations.



In the Bible we learn that God “wants *all people* to be saved and to learn the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4) **GOD’S WORD.**



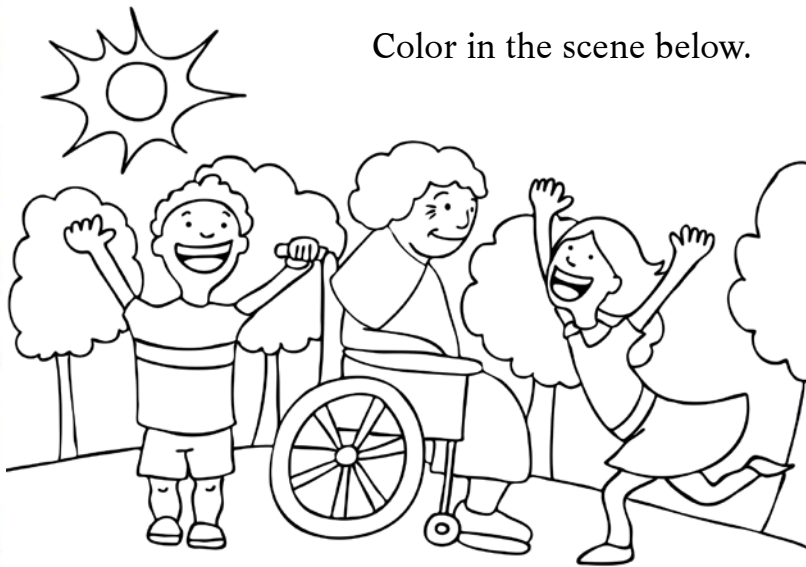
Does “all people” mean little boys and girls?

Yes!

Does “all people” mean moms and dads and grandpas and grandmas?

Yes!

Color in the scene below.



Life Thoughts in the Church Year are designed to help pastors and congregations see the church year through the lens of the sanctity of human life. **Life Thoughts** are based on the appointed readings from *Lutheran Service Book*.

July 4 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Living in a society that increasingly sees people as burdens, it is good to be reminded that we are to carry people's burdens (Galatians 6:2). True compassion is not eliminating those who are burdened. It is eliminating the load of their burden by walking along side them, caring for them, and letting them know they have value in the eyes of God.

July 11 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

The Lord calls us who have been “transferred” into the kingdom of God's Son (Colossians 1:13), to be different from those in the kingdom of this world. The difference comes not only in our love for our neighbor, but even more so in our definition of who our neighbor is (Luke 10:25-37). Our neighbor is especially the vulnerable and needy. Here is a great opportunity to point out the neighbor in the Petri dish, or in the womb, or in the nursing home bed.

July 18 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Even well-meaning service to Christ can become distracting from what is truly “necessary” (Luke 10:38-42). When striving to affirm life, Christians can be distracted by well-meaning political or social agendas and fail to sit at the feet of the Lord of Life and be reminded of what is truly important as we deal with the life issues—the Word of Life.

July 25 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Our sinful flesh was killed, buried, and raised to newness of life through our baptism into Christ. The debt of sin that stood against us is cancelled, nailed to the cross! (Colossians 2:6-15) This objective reality of cancellation of what we deserve speaks especially to those who have committed sins which they feel are too big to be forgiven, such as

sins against life. Apply this “cancellation notice” to such sins.

August 1 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

When our minds are set on earthly things, and we believe that life consists in the abundance of our possessions (Luke 12:15), we make decisions centered on self. When we set our mind on “things above” (Colossians 3:2), we make decisions centered in the will of the risen and ascended Jesus. Christians must guard against making end-of-life decisions based on the “pocket book” and trust in the promises God makes in Christ in His Book!

August 8 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

“Of how much more value are you than birds!”

(Luke 12:24) This presents opportunity to speak of the value that God gives to human life. He creates every life. He redeemed every life in His Son. He desires to call every life into His eternal Kingdom. More value than birds indeed!

August 15 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Observing this Sunday as St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord provides opportunity to speak to the value of life from the very beginning. Elizabeth refers to Mary as the “mother of my Lord” (Luke 1:43). Jesus is still an embryo perhaps not even implanted yet in the

womb of Mary. But He is seen as the Lord! This not only points to the divinity of Christ from the moment of conception, but also to the value He places on humanity from that moment.

August 22 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

What encouragement to know that our heavenly Father does not abandon us in our struggles. Indeed, He accomplishes loving work through them as He disciplines, teaches, and molds us to trust in Him. His goal? “That we may share His holiness” (Hebrews 12:10b). Don't grow weary! Through Christ, He treats us as His dearly loved children.



August 29 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sometimes those passionate about defending the gift of life, forget the manner in which they are to deal with others on these issues. The unconditional love of Christ (Hebrews 13:1-17) dictates that manner. We want Him to be exalted, not ourselves.

September 5 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Life and death, they are before us every day. Our culture shouts, “Choose death as a solution to your problems.” The Lord says, “Choose life, that you and your offspring may live” (Deuteronomy 30:19). He who has chosen you in Christ promises that He “is your life and length of days” (30:20). We turn to Him for our help and our hope.

September 12 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

So many sheep have wandered. Who will seek them? Who will rescue them? “I will,” says the Lord God (Ezekiel 34:11-24). In fact, God is the subject, the “I” of all the action needed to find and care for lost sheep in these passages. God is the one who turns hearts back to faith. God is the one who turns hearts to honor life. We merely share His Word and His power goes to work. Changing

hearts is of primary importance.

September 19 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

God our Savior “desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). Here is opportunity to help people realize that “all people” means exactly that! Embryos in Petri dishes, babies in wombs—every life is a life God desires to call into an eternal relationship with Him.

September 26 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Only the Word of God reveals the truth of God (Luke 16:31). We do not find God’s truth in what we experience around us or within us. When faced with difficult situations, especially those involving life and death, we should be guided by what God has revealed in and through His Word made flesh, the Lord of Life.

Concert For Life
Mark Laverty
May 23, 2010 • 4:00 p.m.
Concordia Seminary
Saint Louis



Life News

monthly bulletin inserts




Life News bulletin inserts help keep your congregation informed on life issues every month! **To subscribe call 888-364-LIFE. \$5.00 per 100 copies/per month.**

Bringing Good News to Life in a Brave New World

by Diane E. Schroeder



Abortion spread across the U.S. when the Supreme Court declared, in 1973, that abortion was a “right.” Thirty-seven years later, what do we see? Abortion is celebrated as a “good” choice, and promoted and funded by our government. Did you know ...

- In early February it became mandatory that all U.S. military bases must offer the abortifacient morning after pill?
- The Senate voted to keep coverage of the abortion pill, RU486, and other abortion drugs in the recent healthcare legislation?
- Lawyers agree that abortion will be covered in the recently passed health care reform act, promoted through “community health care” centers and elsewhere.
- Planned Parenthood hailed the new legislation as “significantly increasing insurance coverage of reproductive health care, including family planning.”

Even more, there is talk of health care rationing and loss of the freedom of conscience rights for health care professionals. I, like so many other LFLers was appalled to witness so-called prolife senators and congressmen abandon their principles during the recent debate over health care. Anti-Christian venom drips from blog sites critical of pro-family ministries such as Focus on the Family. It is very apparent that our society and government are continuing on a collision course with our cherished biblical beliefs and values.

Yet this is not a time for despair, but a time

to rejoice! Now is the time for the church to shine! Opportunities abound for Lutherans For Life to **Bring Good News to Life!** Pastors know their flock is hearing the drum beat of the culture and they are eager to be helped so they can address life issues in their congregations. Lutherans For Life’s Renewal For Life® program does just that. Through a specialized website and the help of a Life Advocate Team within the congregation, pastors can know the latest on the issues facing their congregations and get the resources needed to address them. If your church is not yet involved with Renewal—get involved! Our educational materials are needed more than ever—and not just by Lutherans. Pastors of many faiths are looking for resources. I’ve given our catalogues to Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Greek Orthodox, all who are looking for materials that address life issues from a biblical perspective. Lutherans For Life has them! Christian youth are vocal and participating in Students For Life groups across the country. Laypeople see what is happening in our society and are calling Lutherans For Life to see what they can do.

I would not be human if I did not become discouraged at the turn of events in our country, but I also am determined not to give up. God always has a way of working in seemingly desperate times. So I put my faith in Him knowing that He is in charge and we have already won the victory. Until I am called home, I will continue to fulfill my God-given calling to witness to the sanctity of human life. So do not become disheartened, remember Who called you! Now is the time to shine!

“Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life” (Philippians 2:14-16).

You Can Make a Difference For Life!

Please call (515-441-6571) or e-mail (kmeyer@lutheransforlife.org) if you would like to learn more about any of these giving options.

Lutherans For Life does not receive financial support from any church body. Your individual gifts provide for the annual and long-term needs of LFL.



Give online:

www.lutheransforlife.org

Automatic Bank Drafts:

Many banks offer electronic funds transfer from checking/savings accounts.

Matching Gifts:

Does your employer have a matching gift program? Ask them to include LFL as a qualified charity!

Planned Gifts:

LFL can provide info on trusts, annuities, and other plans. Consider including LFL in your will. (See page 25.)

Online Shopping Rebate Program:

Check out iGive.com at the LFL web site.

Combined Federal Campaign:



If you are a federal employee or member of the US military

(or have family or friends who are) designate "Lutherans For Life" when making your pledge—and let others know about this unique opportunity! **The CFC identification number for LFL is 11508.**



Our Mission ... To witness to the sanctity of human life, through education, based on the Word of God. LFL has 12 state federations, 148 local chapters, and 191 Life Ministry Coordinators in the United States.

Our Vision ... To be a powerful, biblical, pro-life voice and resource to Lutherans and, through them, transform society.

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

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