

# LifeDate

Fall  
2019



A quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life

## Adoption Options and Opportunities



Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life!

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# Lutherans For Life

Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-  
motivated voices For Life

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## Adoption – God’s “WANTED!” Sign

by Pastor Michael Salemink

*I am adopted; I’m a special kid, you see.  
I’m proud to be a member of the royal family.  
I’m adopted. I’m chosen. I bear my Father’s name.*

I grew up with both my biological parents. I only ever called one lady “Mom” and one man “Dad.” But I still loved these lyrics from my favorite kindergarten song. (In case you’re curious, it comes from a corny school musical named *Down by the Creek Bank*. It came out in 1978, but you can still purchase the score today from [www.brentwoodbenson.com](http://www.brentwoodbenson.com). If you like, listen to the ditty at [YouTube](#).) I bet I made my music teacher Mrs. Fredricksen sing it more times than she cared to.

Adoption makes up the Christian’s identity. We belong because God has adopted us. He has not begotten us from His own substance like the Eternal Son. And we do not always behave as His children and reflect His character. Still, He has chosen us who did not first choose Him. He calls us His beloved and declares Himself well-pleased with us. Our Almighty Maker comes to us childlike in Jesus Christ. He abandons His Only Begotten Son to secure us a space in His kingdom and household and family. No matter what age, appearance, ability, or history, human beings may have Lord God for our Heavenly Father. His adoptive washing of Holy Baptism births us anew and from above and forever. Sin renders us unworthy, but the Lamb once slain and raised again ensures we never end up unwanted.

Adoption on earth embodies this grace. Christians engage in adopting not only because we desire to raise children but also—and above all—because the Most High desires their survival and salvation. We adopt because we have been so adopted. We adopt because little ones need homes. We adopt because we have homes and families to share. Life issues mean more than just political debates. Life issues involve more than just personal choices or someone else’s problems. Life issues are always people and Gospel.

**“But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons.” (Galatians 4:4-5 EHV)**





## God's Word for Whatever – *Bethesda Lutheran Communities – Lutherans For Life*

by Sandra Brese Rice

Okay, I'll admit it; I'm a Hallmark movie junkie! Any time I watch I can count on a happy ending, and almost every scene in every movie is predictable. As a matter of fact, they are so predictable that my BINGO boards I made and distributed to friends during the Christmas season were a huge hit! I would get texts from them saying "almost kiss!" or "there is a prince!" regularly throughout December. Happy endings. Predictable lives. Not exactly the norm; not even close.

Now, I realize that bad things happen in this world; sin shows its ugly face often. But why can't we just be nice to each other? Why do we hurt each other? Why do we leave people out? I'm not sure living inside a Hallmark movie would be the best thing for us, but there are times I do wonder how life would be if it were a bit more predictable. It would be nice if, when things don't go our way, our response of "whatever" was a positive response and not said as if we were deflated or discouraged. What if our "whatever" wasn't muttered with disgust but rather spoken with the joy of Jesus?

**"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."** (Philippians 4:8)

At Bethesda Lutheran Communities, we not only support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live full lives in the workplace and community, we also support people in their faith. We work hard to make sure every person supported by Bethesda has a sense of belonging and knows how to praise God in all sorts of "whatevers." A perfect example of this faith journey is Alana.

Alana first came to Bethesda not even knowing what a church was, and a few years later she was confirmed in Christ. What a story! It is certainly worthy of praise! To view her story, go here: [youtu.be/2OAFhhZmz5w](https://youtu.be/2OAFhhZmz5w).

Alana reminds us to celebrate life, for we are all fearfully and wonderfully made and we all belong in the Body of Christ.

For more information about Bethesda, go to [BethesdaLC.org](http://BethesdaLC.org). If you have any questions regarding disability awareness or disability ministry, email us at [ReligiousLife@BethesdaLC.org](mailto:ReligiousLife@BethesdaLC.org).

 **Lutherans For Life**



 **Bethesda**

**[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org) • [www.bethesdalc.org](http://www.bethesdalc.org)**



## Is It Really a Woman's Choice?

by Jean Amundson, retired LFL Regional Director of Texas

**“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.”** (Jeremiah 1:5a NIV)

Is abortion really a woman's choice? Through the media, we hear and read, “My body, my choice.” Are you aware that many women, no matter the age, are unwillingly submitting to abortions? Well-meaning—and sometimes non well-meaning—parents, boyfriends, girlfriends, relatives, and others take the woman to the abortion facility against her will.

Following are a few examples which have been shared with me over the years:

- “My father was an elder in our church, and when he learned I was pregnant out of wedlock, he was furious. He, along with my mother, took me to the abortion facility. After so many years, I am still angry with them and God. They aborted their grandchild, and I was deeply hurt.” *(Through a post-abortion class, this lady was able to forgive her parents. Her faith in Jesus and God was restored.)*
- “When I was pregnant with our third child, the doctor told my husband and me that we should abort the child as I would probably have an emotional breakdown. The doctor located an abortionist in another state.” *(After approximately 30 years, the woman learned to forgive the doctor and her husband. She is now a strong advocate For Life.)*
- “My girlfriend took me to the abortion facility. She said it was for my good.” *(This lady also found forgiveness in a post-abortion class. She went on to lead post-abortion classes.)*
- “Against her will, and without my wife's or my knowledge/consent, our 16-year-old daughter was taken to an abortion clinic by a high school counselor. She was distraught and quite upset when she came home following the abortion and informed us what had happened. We would never have given our consent. The three of us were totally distraught and have not forgiven the school or the individual who took our daughter to the abortion facility, against her will.” *(I am still praying the three of them will learn to forgive the counselor who took their daughter for the abortion.)*

There are many stories similar to the ones above which abortion supporters do not want to be shared. From my perspective, the abortion activists who speak out the most often and the loudest are the ones who have deep emotional scars from past abortions. I believe most of these individuals have either never had a relationship with Christ Jesus or “life” has turned them away from Jesus. These individuals were also created in God's image. It says in John 20:23a (NIV) that, **“If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven ...”**

As Christian life-affirming individuals, we should be praying for God to send the Holy Spirit upon them so they may feel God's true forgiveness.

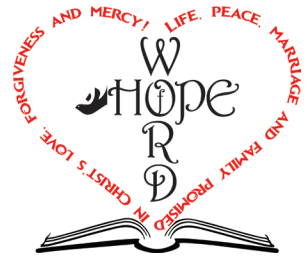
### Word of Hope

As a ministry of Lutherans For Life (LFL), **Word of Hope** is a unique 24/7 national hotline devoted to intervening on behalf of life issues and imparting the value of all human life as divinely created and redeemed by Jesus Christ. Hotline callers are primarily men or women who have suffered for weeks, months, or years after participating in an abortion decision. Many of the hurting people describe overwhelming guilt, depression, anxiety, nightmares, intrusive thoughts, unwanted memories, or other symptoms of post-abortion syndrome. At **Word of Hope**, we respond to suffering with love, mercy, and confidential support, guiding each person with the Word toward reconciliation with God by the gift of faith in Christ alone.

At the peak of the ministry under founder Grace Kern, MSW, as many as 300 people connected with **Word of Hope** through the hotline or email each month. Over time, the ministry's effectiveness was impacted by the need for Grace to singlehandedly operate the hotline, write literature, speak publicly, and procure funding. Grace's decision to retire meant some tasks needed to be deferred and others postponed as the pursuit for a new director commenced. In April 2017, the search concluded when Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, PsyD, accepted the invitation to join the LFL team as the new **Word of Hope** Director.

The transition presented an opportunity to reflect on past successes and a vision for the future. **Word of Hope** aspires to be a national resource that offers supportive referrals and a Christocentric experience, with the hope that all people will be liberated from the overwhelming guilt associated with life-related issues, such as the suffering connected to abortion. To proceed in harmony with the vision, the focus of our efforts must address the need for knowledgeable staff, an online presence, updated technology, proper referral resources, revised publications, and collaboration with other agencies.

Due to the generosity of grants from organizations and donations given by additional dedicated supporters, we accomplished many goals to publicize the hotline. **Word of Hope** increased staff hours, acquired advanced software technology, revised media, exhibited at several conferences, and developed an informational packet that is being distributed nationally. Our ability to “**have mercy on those who doubt [and] save others by snatching them out of the fire**” (Jude 1:22-23a) is critically dependent on the compassion from people and organizations who also share in the true value of life. We are eager to partner with you—For Life!



Chrissie Gillett, with Holleigh Hiller, at the 2019 LWML Convention in Mobile, Alabama.

## Don't Forget the Men!

by Jean Amundson, retired LFL Regional Director of Texas

**“D**on't forget the men!” This is a phrase heard frequently from post-abortive men. Currently, state and national abortion laws are changing rapidly. We hear and read, “My body, my choice.” It appears to be all about the women. Women are told, “You will have the right to choose if you will carry or abort your child.”

In frequent instances, the birth father has not been made aware that his wife or girlfriend is pregnant or that a family member of the birth mother, or the birth mother, has chosen to abort the birth father's child.

In many situations, when the birth father is made aware of the abortion, he is devastated. He wonders why he was not made aware of the pregnancy and why the birth mom decided to abort the pregnancy.

After participating on a panel at a Lutherans For Life conference a few years ago, a man came up to me and said, “Don't forget the men.” He shared that his girlfriend had an abortion and didn't tell him about it until quite a while afterward. He was crushed. He inquired if there were post-abortion recovery groups for men. At an LFL Board of Directors' meeting shortly before this conference, a guest speaker had told us how his life had been affected by abortion. He indicated that he and some other post-abortive men in the St. Louis area had written a curriculum for men whose lives had been impacted by abortion, and they were offering classes for men with similar experiences. We were able to share this information with the man. I have thought about him often over the years and continue to keep him in my prayers.

Another time a man cried in my arms—it was quite emotional. He said several years ago he had a girlfriend who was pregnant with his child, and she decided to have an abortion. She had not told him she was pregnant and planned to terminate the pregnancy. She went to the abortion facility by herself as she thought abortion was a simple, safe procedure. Well, something went wrong, and she needed to be sent immediately to a hospital. She had given this man's name as the emergency contact, never dreaming he would need to be called. He was shocked when he received the phone call. He did go immediately and took her to the hospital. She survived and shortly afterward the man terminated the relationship. (As a side note, he is now a Lutheran pastor.)

A post-abortive grandfather shared that when his daughter was a teenager, she became pregnant. His wife and daughter chose to abort the baby over his objection. He is still grieving for the loss of the grandchild he never knew. He and his wife came close to divorcing, but their faith has kept them together.

How did Joseph handle Mary's pregnancy when he first learned she was expecting a baby that was not his child? Matthew 1:19-21(NIV) states: **“Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law ... he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.’”** Don't forget the men! God doesn't and neither should we!



## Adoption: Finding a Family for a Child

**M**illions of God's children here in the United States and throughout the world—born and still in embryonic stage—are orphans. The astounding number of children without families is tragic but also presents a great opportunity for us to demonstrate our belief in the value of life by taking action to join these children to permanent, loving, Christian families through adoption!

No matter their age or situation—from seven-year-old Coleen waiting in a Texas foster home, to 15-year-old Ezra waiting in a Bulgarian orphanage, to a 16-cell preborn girl waiting in frozen storage in Las Vegas, to a newborn baby boy delivered at a hospital in Omaha—each is created by, known by, and precious to God.

God's design is for all children to be raised in families where they will be loved, nurtured, and protected. Open your heart and mind for the few minutes it will take you to read this article and consider these opportunities to make an eternal difference through adoption.

### Adopt an Older Child

In the USA, 428,000 children are in foster care with 107,000 of them legally free to be adopted, having had ties to their birth families terminated. The only reason they are still waiting is that no one has come forward to adopt them. Each has his or her

**"A**s pro-life Lutherans, we affirm that there is no such thing as an 'unwanted child' and profess that all children are gifts from God ... Now what? Is our job done? Is our witness complete?"



own unique story to tell, but they have one thing in common: a desire to be part of a permanent family. Read seven-year old Coleen's story and learn more about adopting an older child at [adoptuskids.org](http://adoptuskids.org).

### **Adopt Internationally**

Hundreds of thousands of children, from infants to teens, live in orphanages in countries like Haiti, Bulgaria, China, and the Philippines, waiting for parents. In many of these orphanages, nutritious food and a safe environment are scarce—even more so emotional and spiritual nurturing. Meet 15-year-old Ezra and learn more about adopting internationally at [www.allgodschildren.org](http://www.allgodschildren.org).

### **Adopt an Infant**

Many believe infant adoption in the United States is almost impossible, but the truth is over 18,000 infants are voluntarily placed by their birth mothers into the arms of adopting parents each year. Resources exist online for families interested in infant adoption and through books written to help prospective adopting families learn how to get started. One comprehensive source of information is the Adoptive Families Network at [www.adoptivefamilies.com](http://www.adoptivefamilies.com).

### **Adopt an Embryo**

An amazing adoption opportunity exists for parents struggling with infertility, and for those who had children by birth but might consider adding another child to their family, through embryo adoption. Over 60,000 frozen embryos wait for their adopting parents today in cryogenic labs all over the country. Meet baby Marley who, after being frozen for 18 years, was adopted as an embryo by her parents Marty and Elizabeth Wilson through the Snowflakes Embryo Adoption Program, found at [www.nightlight.org](http://www.nightlight.org).

### **Adoption Resources**

The cost of adoption is a deterrent to many couples who would otherwise be able to provide a loving home for a child. It is expensive, but with a little creativity, it is possible! Infant adoption costs may range from several thousand to over \$30,000, depending on where you live. International adoption can be the most expensive, with costs including all things paid for in domestic adoption plus other costs, including travel to your child's country and support for your child's originating orphanage. The cost of embryo adoption is less than domestic infant and international adoption, and adopting a child from foster care is even less expensive.

The good news is that there are resources that can help offset these costs. A Federal Tax Credit allows a direct income tax credit for adopting families of up to \$13,810. (See IRS topic 607 for details at [www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc607](http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc607).) Many employers offer benefits designed to offset the costs of adoption for their employees. Also helpful are a variety of Christian organizations that help families fund adoption by providing low- or no-interest loans, grants, and fundraising assistance. Two examples are Lifesong for Orphans ([www.lifesong.org](http://www.lifesong.org)) and the Abba Fund ([www.abbafund.org](http://www.abbafund.org)).

### What Can You Do?

As pro-life Lutherans, we affirm that there is no such thing as an “unwanted child” and profess that all children are gifts from God. We support a young mother faced with an unplanned pregnancy to choose life instead of abortion. We celebrate that decision. Now what? Is our job done? Is our witness complete?

Thousands of children have life but no one to support, care for, and guide them through this life to the next. Can you help? Consider these possibilities:

1. **Adopt a child yourself.** Explore the resources and see what doors God might open for you.
2. **Share this information with a couple you know who might be able to adopt.** Remember, this does not have to be a couple experiencing infertility. Perhaps it's a couple who already has parenting experience and can provide a nurturing, stable home for just one more. Pastors, share this information with couples in your congregation whom you believe might be open to considering adoption.
3. **Help a family who wants to adopt a child fund their adoption.** If you don't know of anyone personally, ask your pastor if he knows of anyone who is considering adopting but is hesitating because of the cost. Or contact an adoption agency with an offer to help a couple fund their adoption.
4. **Sponsor a child or an orphanage through a reputable agency such as Ministry in Mission, a small Lutheran organization serving in Haiti ([www.ministryinmission.org](http://www.ministryinmission.org)), or Compassion International, a large organization serving children throughout the world ([www.compassion.com](http://www.compassion.com)).**
5. **Pray for the children who, even as you read this, are waiting for families.**

*This article was submitted by Lutheran Family Service, a ministry of the LCMS congregations in Iowa ([www.LutheranFamilyService.org](http://www.LutheranFamilyService.org)).*



[www.lutheransforlife.org/life-issues/adoption](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/life-issues/adoption)



## Life Quotes on Adoption

Adoption is a life-saving, life-affirming option that is not promoted enough in our culture of death or even, unfortunately, within the church. Here are a few Life Quotes ([www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-quotes](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-quotes)) that can also be used to promote adoption:

“Adoption can be an enormously unselfish gift to a baby, not only as a way to give a child a secure, loving, stable family but to give that child the most precious gift of all—life.” *Dr. Jean Garton, former president of Lutherans For Life*

“Adoption is not just about finding a child for a family who can’t have a child. Consider it the other way around: adoption is about finding a family for a child who doesn’t have a family.” *Wanda L. Pritzel, Lutheran Family Services of Iowa*

“I thank God that the birth mothers of my three children chose [the adoption] alternative ... And it is important for men to speak out on this issue ... I am challenging you to continue to spread the message [of adoption] ... to support a cause that saves countless lives. Be responsible fathers and parents; stand up for what is right.” *Ray Nitschke, former middle linebacker for the Green Bay Packers*

The Adoption Creed: “Not flesh of my flesh, nor bone of my bone, but still miraculously my own; never forget for a single minute, you didn’t grow under my heart, but in it.”

“God only has one ‘natural’ child. He adopted all the rest. (See Galatians 4:4-5.)” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life*

“What does it say to our neighbor when in our own families we care for our elderly, become foster parents, adopt children, care for the handicapped, or carry through with an unplanned pregnancy? What does it say to our community when in our churches we care and pray for each other, offering families respite care, visit nursing homes, or provide for the needs of pregnant women? It says that we are truly For Life because we are living it.” *Diane E. Schroeder, former president of Lutherans For Life*

“[W]hen a child is adopted into a family, there is a real family formed there. Our entire Gospel is at stake in that recognition because there is no such thing as an ‘adopted child,’ only children who were adopted. Adopted in the New Testament is a past-tense verb, not an adjective.” *Dr. Russell D. Moore, author of “Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families”*

### The DNA of Adoption

by Pastor Michael Salemink

**A**dopting comes naturally to Christians. It runs in our blood and dwells in our DNA. Christians invented the world's first orphanages. Before Christianity, abandoning "unwanted" infants had become both permissible and popular in Roman and Greek society. Indian, Chinese, tribal African, and Native American civilizations also commonly committed infanticide. Not only did early generations of Christians succeed in opposing and outlawing these practices, they accepted foundlings into their homes, collected funds for their welfare, and established institutions (including the orphan trains of the pioneer United States) for their upbringing.

Adoption belongs to God's "Plan A" for humankind. Of course, the Almighty Maker's very good creation envisions procreating and parenting the offspring of one's own body. However, even natural descent and nuclear family foreshadow a greater reality. God intended to unite Himself with those who did not share His substance. The Heavenly Father did not beget Adam and Eve. Instead He created their race by grace and claimed them for Himself entirely apart from any obligation. He assembled them as created beings but adopted them as family.

And He intertwined adoption into the identity of His Old Testament Israelite people. The Lord bound Abraham to Himself not by blood but by covenant. With a promise He adopted him—and his posterity (Romans 9:4)—out of obscurity and idolatry. Moses' adoption in Pharaoh's household brought about the exodus of Israel from Egyptian oppression. He even named the Hebrews His "firstborn son" (Exodus 4:22), although His body had not birthed any of them. Compassion and assistance for orphans, widows, and aliens then permeated His conversation with them through the Law's instructions and the Prophets' exhortations.

Finally, with Jesus, the divine family planning reaches its completion. This Gospel has adoption at its heart. Joseph takes Mary's baby for his own (Matthew 1:24-25),

**[F]or in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring,**

**heirs according to promise.**

**I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to**

and man adopts the God who had already long ago adopted him. Jesus insists on welcoming little ones He Himself had not sired, and He calls it nothing less than the very kingdom of God (Mark 10:14-15). The Father forsakes His Only Begotten Son (Matthew 27:46) to forgive and reconcile those disconnected from Him (Luke 23:34). Lone Son becomes as one disowned, atones, and makes outsiders heirs.

So, He bids the beloved disciple embrace Mary as his own mother. Likewise, He invites the dear woman to adopt this one as a son she'd never had (John 19:26-27). Jesus had come unto His own, and His own received Him not. But to all who did receive Him by believing in His name, to them He gave the right to become real children of God—born not of blood or flesh or will of man (John 1:12-13) but of water, Word, and Spirit (John 3:3-5).

The Lord our God does not replace birth with adoption. Instead He incorporates both into the better status of Holy Baptism (Galatians 3:26-4:5). This sacramental identity obliterates any distinction between the two. No member of heaven's household says, "I was begotten" or "I was adopted." Each and every one proudly proclaims, "I am dear daughter" or "I am beloved son." All bear the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And this confession now eclipses even one's genetics, **"For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother"** (Matthew 12:50).

We rejoice not only to own this grace ourselves but also to enact it unto others. It energizes us to receive every child as gift and privilege—and to regard none, not even those proceeding from our own bodies, as rights or possessions. We hold adoption as a holy vocation, a labor of God Himself. Rather than reserving it exclusively for those struggling under infertility, He extends this opportunity to any Christian home.

Adoption offers servanthood to children in need and their birth parents, even if it sometimes fulfills one's own longings as well. And it comes with costs for the biological mothers and fathers, for the adopting ones, and for the kids themselves. But it also brings the great blessings with which Almighty God has invested it.

**the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.**

***Galatians 3:26-4:5***





### Meant to Be

by Lynette Auch, President of Lutherans For Life

“Do it!” It is not a simple or easy process, but God has amazing things planned through adoption!

That was the answer when Pastor Levi and Jessica Willms were asked what advice they would give to anyone considering child adoption. They have had no doubts that their son, Caleb John Zian Willms, was **meant to** become part of their family. Adoption was not a novel idea in the Willms’s family. Jessica’s grandfather John was adopted by his maternal grandmother. (That was how Caleb got part of his name.)

The decision to adopt really was not a difficult one for Levi and Jessica. They had a history of participating in life-affirming work—such as 40 Days For Life—and were committed to proclaiming the sanctity of all human life—however God called them to do so.

Through a series of events and health issues preventing them from expanding their family biologically, they felt God calling them to adoption, specifically foreign adoption. After numerous months of paperwork, home studies, and background checks, Levi and Jessica were finally on track to make the journey to China to bring home their 23-month-old-son, Caleb, in April 2018, and work on completing the adoption process.

On their adoption journey, the Willmses made some interesting and sad observations. Along with learning to navigate through the government adoption bureaucracy, which is very confusing and mysterious, they discovered how anti-child and anti-adoption our culture truly is. Even fellow Christians would comment or ask why they were choosing to do this.

The world constantly tries to pull us toward self-serving humanistic goals, while God calls us toward Kingdom goals.



“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. ‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,’ declares the Lord. ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts’” (Isaiah 55:6-9 NIV).

God knew exactly what Levi and Jessica would need through the adoption process and surrounded them with a support system of godly people and experiences to encourage and reassure them along the way. They are still being blessed by these special relationships today.

The adoption process did not come without a cost. Of course, there was the financial cost, which paled in comparison to the time, work, energy, effort, and spiritual battles. But for the Willms family, these short-term costs cannot compare to the long-term blessings they have already received by adopting Caleb.

As they have trusted God’s “higher” ways and thoughts in following His call to adopt Caleb, they cannot even imagine him not being a part of their family and, again, in their words, it was **“meant to be.”**

*Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for the Willms family and the beautiful example of Gospel-motivated voices For Life they are in providing a family for a precious little boy who did not have a family. May the life-affirming family of Lutherans For Life gain a similarly enriched perspective of God, His Kingdom, and the mission of His Church. May their story and courage inspire others to answer your call and “Do it!” In Jesus’ name. Amen.*







**Redeemed ...  
from the very  
beginning to the  
absolute end.**

## **A New Christmas Insert**

### **Redeemed – A Bulletin Insert for Christmas**

This new insert shares that, “Our Almighty Maker paints a bigger picture than one moment can behold. The God Who gives you Jesus Christ plans further than you can perceive. Every life has an important place, from fertilization to final breath.”

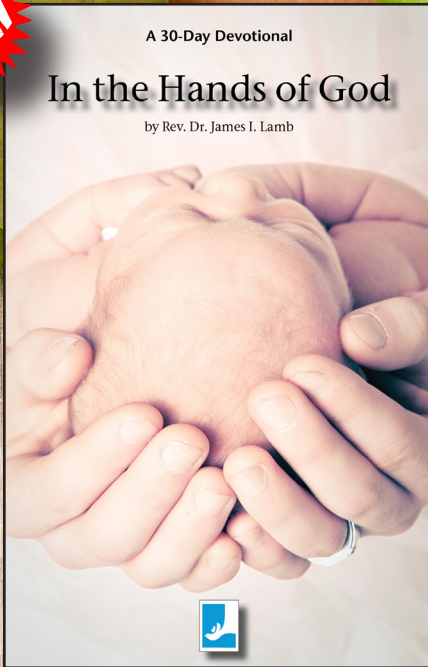
*Item LFL1637BI. \$0.10 ea.*



**Order LFL Resources at [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org) or 800.325.3040.** Shipping/  
handling applies to all orders. Quantity pricing on select resources.



**NEW**



## In the Hands of God – A 30-Day Devotional Booklet

This well-received—and newly updated—devotional booklet by Rev. Dr. James Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life, invites you to consider some of the ways God reaches down with His hands and touches His creation.

Item LFL1604. \$1.00 ea.

**NEW**



## LifeMarks

LifeMarks is a set of seven bookmarks—recently updated—designed to directly apply the Bible's teachings on life as found in *Luther's Small Catechism*—and fit right into the catechism itself! This is a wonderful resource for confirmation, congregational, Sunday school, and home use!

Item LFL1632. \$1.00 ea.

Order LFL Resources at [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org) or 800.325.3040. Shipping/handling applies to all orders. Quantity pricing on select resources.



## Life Thoughts in the Church Year

(Based on appointed readings from *Lutheran Service Book*)

You can find Life Thoughts based on the historic One-Year Lectionary at:

[www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-thoughts-in-the-church](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-thoughts-in-the-church).

**October 6 – Pentecost XVII (Proper 22C)** – Jesus warns against equating worth with girth (Luke 17:6). Mistaking more for better brings catastrophic consequences. Better a millstone around one's own neck (Luke 17:2) than causing a little one (literally, of microscopic size) to stumble (literally, caught in a trap and brought to destruction). Raising a child in the truth and love, forgiveness and faith of Christ Jesus surpasses (2 Timothy 1:5-6) gaining even a lifetime of wealth to give them (Psalm 62:9-10).

**October 13 – Pentecost XVIII (Proper 23C)** – Naomi fears becoming burdensome to her family. She even insists her daughters-in-law let her go (Ruth 1:8-9). But Ruth refuses to abandon the aging widow for autonomy (Ruth 1:16-18). And they both get to witness God again bringing treasure from tragedy, as the gifts of community more than make up for surrendering independence. Will we receive less, if He Who gave King David for their grandson sent us His Son for a Savior?

**October 20 – Pentecost XIX (Proper 24C)** – We get to declare and demonstrate the Word of the Lord even in adversity (2 Timothy 4:2-3). Proclaim the truth of God no matter what political controversies it intersects. Perform the love of Jesus no matter what personal choices it interferes with. Speak and show how He creates, redeems, and calls every human life, especially the least of these. Face discrimination with courage and compassion. Meet ridicule with joy and hope. God guarantees justice (Luke 18:7-8).

**October 27 – Pentecost XX (Proper 25C)** – The Lord swore to defend and avenge Cain though he had killed (Genesis 4:15). Our Almighty Maker wraps His tender mercy (Luke 18:13-14) even around those who have taken life. The Lamb of God also sacrificed His life and shed His blood to release from sin anyone who has participated in abortion or advocated assisted suicide. Only this same repentance and forgiveness will save even For Life voices who find ourselves superior to them.

**November 3 – All Saints' Day** – Blessed are the pretty? Blessed are the popular and productive? Blessed are the self-sufficient? No! Blessed rather are the poor, the meek, those who cannot feed (Matthew 5:6) or defend themselves (Matthew 5:7, 9), for they exhibit just how much God gives and does for humankind. If He calls sinners His children (1 John 3:1) and makes saints of such as us (Revelation 7:9-10), how can mere age, appearance, or inability disqualify anyone else?

**November 10 – Pentecost XXII (Proper 27C)** – “[H]e is not God of the dead, but of the living” (Luke 20:38). Creation and nature, incarnation and resurrection, conception and heaven everlasting are not only His works, they are His will and His way. He has revealed and given Himself to humankind that every genetic member of our race may have life, abundant and eternal, even amid suffering (Exodus 3:7-8) and destruction (2 Thessalonians 2:3). Take heart and stand firm!





**November 17 – Pentecost XXIII (Proper 28C)** – Surprise pregnancies can feel worse than the world ending. Terminal diagnoses can seem like the universe working against you. They also bring opportunity to bear witness to God’s love for humankind (Luke 21:13). The Son of Man has entered in, even in just such humble circumstances. While society crouches in fear and anger (Luke 21:25-26), we may stand up straight, lift heads and hands (Luke 21:28), and receive each life as a gift!

**November 24 – Last Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 29C)** – How precious indeed does God hold every human life! Just what makes even the least of these so special, from the embryo to the elderly? The Heavenly Father creates each one (Colossians 1:16) at the moment of fertilization. The Son of God wrapped His holy life in human flesh within Mary’s womb (Colossians 1:19-20). And the Holy Spirit calls even the youngest among us into His everlasting Kingdom and family (Colossians 1:13-14)!

**December 1 – Advent I** – Some call “sexual liberation” and “individual autonomy” progress. But abortion and assisted suicide show how serving flesh and self enslaves only to death. “[S]alvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed” (Romans 13:11b). Jesus draws and drives us toward a better hope: forgiveness, resurrection, everlasting life, Kingdom of heaven. Real progress means trusting the Word of the Lord and receiving even the least of these as precious neighbors.

**December 8 – Advent II** – “[W]elcome one another as Christ has welcomed you” (Romans 15:7). Does the Almighty Maker view you as an inconvenience? Does the Heavenly Father call you parasite or persistent vegetative? Has He not indeed exalted and honored you above any other creature by making Himself your Servant and Savior (Romans 15:8-10)? And shall we not likewise embrace embryos and aged neighbors in the same grace?

**December 15 – Advent III** – “Put not your trust in princes” (Psalm 146:3a). Neither ought we allow politicians, researchers, or even physicians to decide the purpose, worth, and duration of a human life. They cannot even spare themselves from sin and death, any more than we can. Human survival and salvation belong in the hands of Him who makes and favors each one (Psalm 146:5-7). And we rejoice whenever He enlists the experts—and the rest of us—as His agents!

**December 22 – Advent IV** – The Gospel has adopting at its heart. Joseph took Mary’s baby for his own (Matthew 1:24), and man adopts the God who had adopted His created beings as His children. We rejoice both to own this grace and to enact it unto others. It energizes us to receive every child as gift instead of as a right. And God extends this opportunity to any Christian home, not just those experiencing infertility!

**December 29 – Christmas I** – “God sent forth His Son, born of woman ... to redeem those who were under the law” (Galatians 4:4-5). Jesus became just like each of us—zygote, embryo, fetus, infant, toddler, kid, teenager, and grown-up. In doing so, He demonstrated how precious He would have us see ourselves and every other member of our race in all ages, appearances, and abilities. Let us celebrate our Lord’s gestation as much a part of His blessed incarnation as His birth!



**The world's largest public health agency issued its most authoritative statement to date on the use of CRISPR to alter the DNA of human babies.** In November 2018, He Jiankui, a rogue Chinese scientist, announced he had secretly created the world's first gene-edited children. The two babies

were born with heritable changes to their genomes, after Jiankui edited the babies' DNA using the CRISPR technique. The World Health Organization wants countries to halt any future experimentation that would lead to the births of more gene-edited humans. In late July, the WHO's director-general released a statement urging "that regulatory authorities in all countries should not allow any further work in this area until its implications have been properly considered." Despite the strong rebuke of the scientist's work, WHO stopped short of a complete moratorium in the use of CRISPR. (*Wired*, 7/30/19; *CLR LifeWire*, 8/8/19)

**Data reveals euthanasia and assisted-suicide deaths in Ontario totaled 3,303 deaths since the practice was legalized in 2016.** Newly released data from Ontario finds 774 deaths occurred by euthanasia and assisted suicide in the Canadian province during the first half of 2019. The Ontario Office of the Chief Coroner reported the updated information. Since its legalization on June 17, 2016, the law allowed a total of 3,303 individuals to end their lives by euthanasia: 3,302 doctor-assisted euthanasia deaths and 1 self-administered assisted suicide death as of June 30, 2019. Last May, the Ontario Court of Appeal upheld a lower-court decision regarding conscience rights for doctors who oppose assisted death. The May 15 decision ruled against such conscience rights, stating that although Ontario medical-practitioner objectors are not required to perform euthanasia, they were required to refer their patients to physicians willing to perform the procedure. (*Euthanasia Prevention Coalition*, 7/17/19; *CLR LifeWire*, 7/18/19)

**Vincent Lambert, a former nurse in a cognitively disabled condition after a motorcycle accident in 2008, died July 11 in Reims, France.** He was deprived of food and hydration for 9 days before his death. He was 42. The case involved what was considered to be a case of euthanasia without explicit consent. The family was involved in years of legal battles over his fate. Last June 28, France's highest appeal court ordered that treatment and care, including food and fluid, be withdrawn from Lambert. Mr. Lambert's parents commented, "This time it's over," after their son's death was confirmed by the parents' legal counsel, Jean Paillot. (*Euthanasia Prevention Coalition*, 7/11/19; *CLR LifeWire*, 7/11/19)

## Abortions Worldwide in 2019

[www.worldometers.info/abortions](http://www.worldometers.info/abortions)



To learn about the international outreach of Lutherans For Life, go to:  
[www.lutheransforlife.org/about/international](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/about/international)



## Share the Life Message All Through the Year!

**Lutherans For Life** offers several easy ways to keep the life message before your congregation! Go to [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org) (MEDIA tab).

- **LifeDate:** Order **LifeDate** in bulk quantities at no charge. (Donations for shipping cost will gladly be accepted.) Call 888.364.LIFE (5433).
- **Life News:** Download **Life News**, our monthly bulletin insert with life-issue news and more!
- **Life Notes:** Sign up for **Life Notes**, our weekly email update.
- **Life Quotes/Life Thoughts:** Share **Life Quotes** and **Life Thoughts in the Church Year** in weekly congregational bulletins (or monthly newsletters).

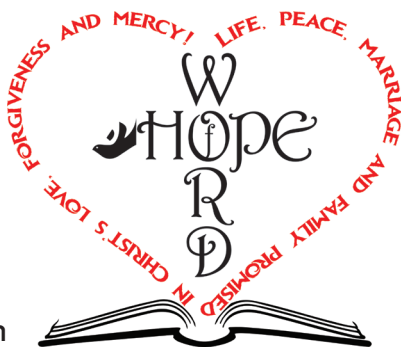
## Check out “Life on the Web” on our Life Blog



[www.lutheransforlife.org/life-blog](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/life-blog)

## For Those Who Have Had an Abortion, a Word of Hope

We all have grieved the loss of someone at some point in our lives ... But those who have lost a child because they had an abortion, or were part of an abortion decision, often



do not allow themselves to grieve or don't know how to grieve.

888-217-8679 or [info@word-of-hope.org](mailto:info@word-of-hope.org) • [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)

**Since 1973: 60,942,033 abortions in America**

Source: [www.nationalrighttolife.org/news/2019/01/national-right-to-life-releases-6th-annual-state-of-abortion-report/](http://www.nationalrighttolife.org/news/2019/01/national-right-to-life-releases-6th-annual-state-of-abortion-report/)

## Hope-Filled Promises

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life

**“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:4-5).**

Galatians 4 offers a beautiful and hope-filled promise, doesn’t it? In two short verses, Paul boldly declares the Gospel message: You are a child of God. And this adoption was not your own doing; it was made possible only through the work of Christ.

Did you hear that? Nada. Zilch. Zero. Nothing. That’s right, as adopted children of the Heavenly Father, we did nothing to earn God’s love or Christ’s legacy. Like every other adopted child, we were sought and brought into God’s family because we were loved long before we were lovable, long before we could love our Father in return. And now that we are His, we recognize that Christ’s redeeming work gives our lives meaning, purpose, and joy.

Galatians proclaims the hope we’ve been given as heirs to eternity; it enables us to celebrate our transformation from slavery to sonship. And it reminds us of our relationship not only with God, but also with others. We are family. As adopted members of the same heavenly family, we uphold and honor the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ, protecting them not only because they are valuable in the eyes of God, but also because **they have become valuable to us.**

As I prepared to write my first letter to all of you—ardent advocates For Life and supportive members of LFL—I kept returning to this text. Not only does it fit the theme for this issue of LifeDate, but it perfectly describes how joy-filled I am to be serving alongside you. In fact, each conference I have attended this summer, each youth I’ve spoken to, has affirmed that this is a ministry that is both necessary and valuable. And it is a ministry I am overjoyed to share in.

Not only am I passionate about sharing the message that human life is sacred because Jesus made it so, but I am also excited about working with high school and college-aged youth. I have spent the last twenty-two years teaching, mentoring, and shepherding adolescents in the classroom, and I feel both humbled and blessed that God has called me to continue to do so at Lutherans For Life.

As a newly adopted member of the Lutherans For Life staff and family, I look forward to meeting, supporting, serving alongside, and praying for you and your youth. Please also pray for Lutherans For Life, **Y4Life**, and for our entire team. Pray that God might use us to share the message that life is valuable because it has been created and redeemed. Pray that the Gospel might transform hearts and lives for Him. And most of all, pray that God’s will be done on earth just as it is in heaven.

Thank you for your prayers and your support. Please let me know if I can serve you in any way! (Feel free to email me at [mbauman@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:mbauman@lutheransforlife.org).)





**Michelle Bauman** joined the Lutherans For Life team on June 1, 2019. She earned her Lutheran teaching degree in secondary education from Concordia Nebraska in 1998 and a master's degree in English from the University of Indianapolis in 2011. Before joining Lutherans For Life, Michelle taught middle school English from 1998 to 2002 at Holy Cross Lutheran School in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and English, drama, and speech at Trinity Lutheran High School in Seymour, Indiana, from 2002 to 2019. Michelle also served as Trinity's Recruitment Director from 2004 to 2017. She lives in Columbus, Indiana, with her husband, Pastor Doug Bauman, and two sons, Nathaniel and Simeon, and attends St. Paul Lutheran Church, Clifty, where her husband serves as pastor.



Find more photos from FLY at [www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife](http://www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife).

(l-r) LFL's Michelle Bauman, Kim Nessa, and Jerilyn Richard at the 2019 FLY (Free Lutheran Youth) Convention in Estes Park, Colorado, July 2019.

**Y4Life • Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life**  
[mbauman@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:mbauman@lutheransforlife.org) • 812.350.2732 • [www.Y4Life.org](http://www.Y4Life.org)

## The First Two Months

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life

What do the first two months of serving as LFL's new director of Y4Life look like? I think I can answer that in one word: Busy!

In addition to participating in a week of on-site training and participating in two conferences designed for adults this past summer, I have had the privilege of attending, exhibiting, and, in two cases, presenting at three different youth conventions on behalf of Lutherans For Life. The first youth convention, FLY (Free Lutheran Youth), was sponsored by the Association of Free Lutheran Churches. Set in Estes Park, Colorado, attendees couldn't help but be awed and inspired by the grandeur of God's creation. Throughout the week, over 2,000 participants, most of them youth, focused on the great "I AM" and rejoiced in a God Who is their Vine, their Bread of Life, and their Good Shepherd. Youth were fed the faith and left this sanctuary in Colorado inspired to share what they had learned with others.

Less than two weeks later, I found myself in Minnesota at NYG (National Youth Gathering), an assembly of over 20,000 Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod youth who were ready to learn, serve, and witness to the world. The people of Minneapolis noticed the influx of youth in their city, and they wanted to know who all these friendly young people wearing purple backpacks were and what they stood for. LCMS youth energetically shared that message as they learned about their "Real. Present. God." Who is both their **"refuge and strength"** (Psalm 46:1).

And as I write this article at the end of July, I am preparing for one final opportunity to share the message of life at a youth conference this summer, this time on the sunny shores of California. At Concordia University Irvine, youth from across the United States will attend an LCMS Higher Things gathering where they will "Dare to be Lutheran"; they'll rejoice in the concord of the church's confession and be led to recognize that this unity only comes through Christ, the Word made flesh. And they'll leave with the promise that despite cultural change, **"the word of the Lord endures forever"** (1 Peter 1:25 NIV).

With such a full summer, I should be tired, maybe even a little weary. But the truth is ... I can't wait for more!

Nehemiah 8:10 (NIV) says, **"[T]he joy of the LORD is your strength."** It's a verse I've reflected on many times in my ministry and especially these last two months, for it has perfectly described both my first summer as director of Y4Life and the interactions I've had with youth themselves! From their participation during my presentations to our conversations in the exhibit hall, I have been awed by the faith and enthusiasm of Lutheran youth.

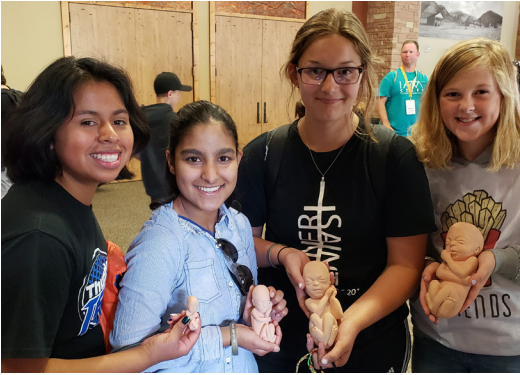
It's clear that the Holy Spirit is at work. Lutheran youth are faithful, and their faith has influenced both their minds and their hearts, making them enthusiastic supporters of life. As students stopped by our booth, they often shared why they were for life. They held babies and asked, "How could this life be put to death?" And they wanted to know what they could do to share the message. The few who weren't sure where they stood on life issues were at least open to the conversation. Yes, the Holy Spirit was



at work. Not only did most of the youth I talked to clearly recognize that God made life, but they also understood that all life is important because it has been redeemed by Christ. The Lutheran youth of today fill me with much joy and much hope.

At the beginning of this article, I mentioned that one word could easily describe my summer: Busy. But the truth is, there's an even better word I could use to describe my summer, a word that also describes our Lutheran church, our youth, and the future of life ministries like Lutherans For Life as a whole: Blessed!

## Y4Life at FLY and NYG



These Babies  
are fearfully  
and wonderfully  
Made!!!

Each person is  
wonderfully and beautifully  
made by God and deserves  
a fair chance!

## **We Were Busy This Summer!**

by Pastor Michael Salemink

Thanks to you, we've been busy! For years we've hosted an annual national conference ([www.lutheransforlife.org/conference](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/conference)). These events gather life-minded brothers and sisters in Christ for affordable fellowship, celebration, worship, and a wealth of expert educational sessions about the sanctity of life in the distinctively Lutheran spirit. Feedback from folks across the nation, however, helped us to understand that many who would like to participate simply were unable to attend as a result of the traveling distance. In order to provide more conference opportunities for interested individuals across the entire country, we decided two years ago to begin a rotating schedule of offering several regional conferences one year alternating with one national conference the next year. We saw such enthusiastic reception of our first four regional conferences in 2017 that this year we're partnering with local congregations to feature six! Our first two have proven immensely fruitful, with over 130 attendees (and nearly \$5,000 in generous offerings) at Living Word in Grapevine, Texas (March 23), and Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan (April 27). Four more remain, including Baltimore, Denver, Rochester (Minnesota), and San Francisco!

Mrs. Michelle Bauman has accepted the divine call to serve as our next Y4Life director ([y4life.org](http://y4life.org)). She was installed at our June 28 leadership retreat. Michelle is wife to Pastor Doug Bauman of Seymour, Indiana, and mother to Nathaniel and Simeon. She taught English in Lutheran middle school and high school for 22 years prior to joining our team. (She has also served as director of recruitment, director of drama activities, and coordinator of international travel.) She is succeeding our beloved Laura (Davis) Hemminger, whom God has promoted to the vocations of wife and mother this past year. (Laura and Mike's baby is due in late September.) Laura began with LFL as a member of our board of directors before coming on staff to implement the Y4Life program and orchestrate its very successful nationwide activities and growth for the past seven years. We will dearly miss Laura's energetic and creative leadership, and we eagerly look forward to benefitting from Michelle's insight and expertise.

We've enjoyed the company of student Lutherans all summer long. In addition to our spring campus life leadership institute, Laura, Michelle, and I (along with Jeri and Kim from the national office) have attended several Lutheran youth gatherings. Our display tables at the Free Lutheran Youth Convention (Estes Park, Colorado), the LCMS National Youth Gathering (Minneapolis, Minnesota), and Higher Things conferences in Chicago and Los Angeles facilitated constant and vibrant conversations. Our supplies of educational resources have run out in every location, and our educational sessions have seen such abundant participation that attendees had to be turned away!

We also found our exhibit very popular at the LWML Convention in Mobile, Alabama. The good ladies there kept Deaconess Chrissie Gillet (our Word of Hope director), Michelle, Laura, and me talking nonstop. We gave away all the literature we brought there as well. (Very little remained after the very first day!) Many, many individuals shared stories of preemies and miscarriages as well as pictures of gestating grandkids, and all earnestly thanked us for our presence and witness. They also voted

to fund a \$30,000 grant for us to develop more digital content that can share the Gospel message of life's sanctity across the internet and social media (in addition to the \$70,000 LWML districts awarded Word of Hope last year)!

Visitors also expressed their appreciation at the LCMS Convention in Tampa, Florida. Deaconess Rachel Geraci (our mission and ministry director) and I had a variety of opportunities to share about our ministry and message with individuals who hadn't heard. Once again, they depleted our shipment of booklets and brochures, and several invited us to present at their congregations. In addition, the convention adopted Resolution 3-02A (by a stirring 98% vote of 951-19!) which stated, "That we commend the LCMS Life Ministry and Lutherans For Life for their work in advocating for the life, dignity, and health of all people from conception to natural death, particularly mothers, unborn children, those who are physically and/or mentally challenged, those who are gravely ill, and those who are dying."

And there's more! In June, we were at the Issues, Etc. Conference in Chicago in June and the NALC Convocation in Indianapolis (850 attendees). In late September, we plan to be at the LCMC Annual Gathering in Omaha—usually around 1,000 attendees.

We have also had a very positive response to our Petition For Life. Find out more and sign the petition here: [lutheransforlife.org/petition-for-life](http://lutheransforlife.org/petition-for-life).

So far since January we've welcomed seven new volunteer communities to our nationwide network. More than 150 Life Chapters and Life Teams function as our "Frontlines" in local and interpersonal settings ([www.lutheransforlife.org/about/life-chapters-and-life-teams](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/about/life-chapters-and-life-teams)). They proclaim and perform in crucial heart-to-heart contexts how precious the Gospel makes every human life. We rejoice with Trinity in Elkhart, Indiana; Our Savior in Hartland, Michigan; Chapel of the Cross in St. Louis, Missouri; Christ Memorial in St. Louis, Missouri; and St. Paul's in West Falls, New York, who have trained and commissioned Life Teams. We also celebrate Greater Topeka Life Chapter (Topeka, Kansas) and Flint Hills Life Chapter (Manhattan, Kansas).

**Your support, encouragement, and fellowship have made all this possible.** And so much more is coming! For example, we'll present at the Southern California Defending Life Conference in September with Abby Johnson ([www.defendinglifeconference.org](http://www.defendinglifeconference.org)), we'll connect with thousands of educators at the October Lutheran Education Association Convocation in St. Louis, and we'll raise our Gospel-motivated voices For Life at the January March For Life and Expo in Washington, D.C.

**Thank you for helping us change hearts, save lives, and reach over 200,000 people in 2019!**







# MARCH *for* LIFE

*The next March for Life ...*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2020

*Lutherans For Life will be there!*

[marchforlife.org](http://marchforlife.org)

[www.lutheransforlife.org/event/1280253-2020-01-24-march-for-life-2020](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/event/1280253-2020-01-24-march-for-life-2020)



**ESTATE PLANNING** – For advice on estate planning that can help you and Lutherans For Life, contact Jim Schroeder, Christian Estate Planning Counselor. Jim can provide you with personal assistance in working with your attorney and your other financial advisors in planning your estate. Contact Jim at 515.490.7371 or [jim@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:jim@iowadistrictwest.org).



**Buying or selling a home or commercial property?** You can support Lutherans For Life at no cost to you by taking advantage of the Real Estate for Life program. Call 877.543.3871 or email [proliferealestate@yahoo.com](mailto:proliferealestate@yahoo.com) for more information.

[www.realestateforlife.org](http://www.realestateforlife.org)

[www.lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/real-estate-for-life)

**Be sure to like/follow LFL on social media! See links below:**

- [www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife](http://www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife)
- [twitter.com/ForLifers](https://twitter.com/ForLifers)
- [www.instagram.com/lfly4life](https://www.instagram.com/lfly4life)



**Also see:**

- [www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife](https://www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife)
- [vimeo.com/user4132928](https://vimeo.com/user4132928)





## LAMBs – Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets

Through the skillfulness of some LFLers in Ohio, along with the Miami Valley Life Chapter, a new project entitled “LAMBs” (Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets) has been created. Although our world might tell us otherwise, children truly are a blessing. Therefore, Lutherans For Life would like to celebrate children, especially those families with a lot of them!

We would like to celebrate families that are awaiting the birth of their fourth or more child by gifting them with a homemade blanket. Do you know such a family in your Lutheran church? If so, please contact Rachel Geraci, our mission and ministry director, at [rgeraci@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:rgeraci@lutheransforlife.org) so that she can arrange for this gift to be sent to them. (Alternatively, you can fill out the form below and send it to Carol Houtler of the Miami Valley Life Chapter.)

Thank you for helping us care for your neighbor in this way!

**“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward” (Psalm 127:3).**

### LAMBs – Lutherans Assembling Mercy Blankets

Do you know a family in your congregation who is having its fourth or more child? Wouldn't it be nice to gift them with a homemade blanket in celebration of this new life? Simply by filling out this form, Lutherans For Life, the Miami Valley Life Chapter, and other Lutherans from the state of Ohio will ensure that a blanket made with love will be sent directly to this expectant mother anywhere within the continental United States. There are no strings attached. As the Body of Christ, we want to use this as an opportunity to share the mercy that our Savior Jesus Christ first showed us on the cross.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's & Father's Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Baby's Gender: Boy \_\_\_\_ Girl \_\_\_\_

Mother's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send completed forms to: Carol Houtler/Miami Valley Life Chapter  
7163 Pugliese Place  
Dayton, OH 45415-1207



**“He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms” (Isaiah 40:11a).**

2019 Lutherans For Life Regional Conferences

“Did God Really Say ... ?”

[www.lutheransforlife.org/conference](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/conference)

*Still to come ...*

Rochester, Minnesota

Trinity Lutheran Church – September 14, 2019

Joppa, Maryland

Trinity Lutheran Church – October 19, 2019

San Francisco, California

West Portal Lutheran Church – November 16, 2019



**Online Registration is Open!**

“Lord to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.” (John 6:68)



## Lutherans For Life ...

- **Applies God's Word**, both His Law and His Gospel, to all the life issues—abortion, chastity, assisted suicide and euthanasia, and bio-technology.
- **Assists For Life Christians** in offering the hope and help of the Good News of Jesus Christ to: women with an untimely pregnancy; women, men, and families suffering under the guilt of an abortion; young people with questions and concerns about sexuality; and the elderly and those with disabilities or terminal illnesses.
- **Believes God gives the gift of life to all people**—from the moment of conception until natural death.
- **Needs your support to continue to encourage, educate, and uplift with a Gospel-centered, Word-based message of hope, forgiveness, and new life!**

## Lutherans For Life ...

**Witnesses** to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God.

**Serves** through individuals who volunteer at pregnancy care centers, with hospice, through prayer, and in a wide variety of caring activities.

**Educates and Encourages** through conferences and workshops, printed resources (including our *LifeDate* journal, *Life News*, *Life Quotes*, and *Directions*), Life Sunday materials and Bible studies, curricula (including *Teaching For Life*®), video, and through [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org).

**Equips** local congregations to speak out on life issues in their communities through Life Chapters and Life Teams. Many Lutherans For Life State Federations and Life Chapters also support a variety of compassionate, caring pregnancy and post-abortion ministries that offer pre- and post-natal counseling, parenting skills workshops, and lifestyle counsel.

## Lutherans For Life ...

Is a **Recognized Service Organization** (RSO) of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Is a **ministry partner** of the North American Lutheran Church.

Is not subsidized by any church body.

Is supported entirely by individual donations and grants.



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

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

**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 a Gospel-motivated witness to the Church and society on these and other related issues, such as chastity, post-abortion healing, and family living. We will call God's people to compassionate action and foster life-affirming alternatives for those facing difficult situations.

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Babies bring joy - even to other babies!  
*LFL at the LCMS National Youth Gathering 2019*

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