

Lifelines

November/December/January 2025-2026

President's Column

By Pastor Paul Clark

It's like comparing apples with oysters.

You may be thinking, "Wait a minute, Pastor! I think you meant "comparing apples with oranges." We use that phrase when comparing two things that are in different categories and should not be equated. But if you look into the origin of the phrase, you will find that it compared apples with oysters. The *American Heritage Dictionary* says, "This metaphor for dissimilarity began as apples and oysters, which appears in John Ray's proverb collection of 1670, with the phrase "as like as an apple to an oyster." It may date back to 1594 to William Shakespeare, in *The Taming of the Shrew*, where Tranio says, "He is my father, sir, and sooth to say, in countenance somewhat doth resemble you." To which Biondello replies, "As much as an apple doth to an oyster."

Whether *apples and oysters* **or** *apples and oranges* --- what's my point?

This past week Pope Leo said, "**Someone who says 'I'm against abortion but says I am in favor of the death penalty' is not really pro-life. Someone who says that 'I'm against abortion, but I'm in agreement with the inhuman treatment of immigrants in the United States,' I don't know if that's pro-life.**"

I can't let that one slide by without rebuke. *He's wrong.* Comparing abortion with capital punishment, or with

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immigration policy, is like comparing *apples with oysters*.

Abortion is the killing of an unborn baby, the extermination of a new life, fully human, and innocent of any wrongdoing. One of the things God hates, according to **Proverbs 6:17**, are "**hands that shed innocent blood.**" Innocent blood certainly describes a tiny unborn child who is slaughtered before he or she has the chance to be born. That baby, whom God "**knitted together**" in the mother's womb, is "**fearfully and wonderfully made.**" (*Psalm 139*). **Our Lord and Savior Jesus loves the little children.** He warned of great judgment against anyone who deliberately sought to harm them or who would try to prevent them from coming to Him.

Capital Punishment is an act by which the governing authorities, who wield the power of the sword according to **Romans 13**, put to death a guilty criminal, who has taken the life of another human being, thus forfeiting his own. The **Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod** states the position that "**capital punishment is in accord with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.**" This is based on HOLY SCRIPTURE: "**Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.**" (*Genesis 9:6*) This is not to be an act of personal vengeance, but an act of government who in fulfilling their duty to punish the wicked and protect the innocent, may impose capital punishment. "**For he (the government) is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries** (continued p.3)

LFL's mission is to equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

LFL Vision Statement:

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

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THANK YOU...

To all our donors this quarter,
THANK YOU for helping us share
resources, host educational events,
support pregnancy resource centers, and
more as we join together to be gospel-
motivated voices For Life!

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It is available by email, mail, or on our website
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Word of Hope

LFL's Post Abortion Healing Ministry

We can help, contact us at:

1-888-217-8679

www.word-of-hope.org

help@word-of-hope.org

(President's Column, continued from p.1)

out God's wrath on the wrongdoer." (Romans 13:4)

So, comparing capital punishment with abortion is, indeed, like comparing apples with oysters.

But what was *truly offensive* about the Pope's statement was that he said that those who are against abortion but in favor of the death penalty are not *really* pro-life. In doing so, he is watering down the malevolent horror of abortion by equating it with other issues in which we have the freedom within the boundaries of God's Word to debate. *Shame on him.*

Now as Lutherans, we adhere to the teaching of ***Scripture alone***. We do not recognize the authority of the Pope. But here is why I am particularly incensed over what he said: He is *burdening* those who are members of the Roman Catholic Church by telling them *that they are not truly pro-life IF they do not agree with him* on capital punishment, *despite* what Scripture says to the contrary. I have many dear Catholic friends that I know support the *Right To Life* and are actively fighting for the lives of our innocent unborn children, but now this throws an additional weight upon their shoulders, one that is ***NOT*** backed by Holy Scripture. They are being told that they ***must be*** against the death penalty ***or else*** they are hypocrites and not truly pro-life at all. ***That is abominably wrong.***

Now it is true that, though the Bible *allows* capital punishment, it does not *mandate* capital punishment. It leaves it up to the State, that is, the governing authorities. In our Republic, represented by those whom we the people elect to office, we have the freedom to decide, through our legislative process, whether we wish to have capital punishment or not. Unlike with abortion, which is unquestionably the willful butchery of an innocent baby, we can debate the pros and cons of capital punishment. *For example*, if a state does have capital punishment, we would certainly want to ensure that it is applied justly, after a fair trial and conclusive evidence, so that an innocent person might not be mistakenly convicted and put to death.

The point is not that we *MUST* have capital punishment, it is that we *CAN* have capital punishment. But abortion IS and ALWAYS IS the deliberate killing of an unborn baby human being who has done no wrong and has no opportunity to speak in his or her own defense. So, yes, you can be *against* abortion but still *support* the death penalty and be pro-life. Don't compare apples with oysters.

What of the other part of the Pope's statement, when he said, "*Someone who says that 'I'm against abortion, but I'm in agreement with the inhuman treatment of immigrants in the United States,' I don't know if that's pro-life.*"

THAT is most emphatically comparing apples with oysters. Think about this: **The intended result for every abortion is the death of a baby.** Even in a botched abortion where the baby is born alive, the radical abortion advocates demand that it be abandoned and left to die.

No one – *at least no one I know* – advocates hunting down *for the purpose of* killing illegal immigrants. We may have differing views on how to best enforce immigration law, protect our border, and deporting those who broke the laws of our nation in coming illegally in the first place, *but we can reasonably disagree on the details.* But whichever position we take, **the intended result is NOT** to willfully and deliberately *kill them*, as it ***IS*** in an abortion. The ***intent*** is to enforce the laws, punish those who break the law, , and protect innocent citizens. That is what ***Romans 13*** says that government is ***supposed*** to do. It may indeed happen, that in the process of enforcing the laws of the land, people may be imprisoned or even deported. The government is engaging in its God-given duty to pass and enforce laws, and to punish those who break those laws. ***Remember - the willful intent for every abortion is ALWAYS to produce a dead baby. The willful intent of enforcing immigration policy is NOT to produce a dead illegal immigrant, but to dutifully protect the nation's citizens.***

This statement of the Pope could not go unchallenged. As President of ***Lutherans For Life of Michigan***, as a pastor who is tied squarely to God's Word, as a pro-life citizen, as an advocate for the unborn – ***I cannot remain silent. The Pope is wrong.*** You ***can be*** against abortion ***and*** support the death penalty and ***still be pro-life.*** You ***can be*** (continued p.4)

(President's Column, continued from p.3)

against abortion **and yet** back the closing of the border and the removal of those who have come into our country illegally - especially those who are gang members and violent offenders, rapists, child sex traffickers, and so forth. Supporting the enforcement of immigration policy *does not* disqualify you from being pro-life.

The foundation of our faith is **Jesus Christ**. Our infallible source of truth and doctrine is the Holy Word of God – *Sola Scriptura* – **Scripture alone!** It is not the *fallible words* of popes, or the crooked and corrupt wisdom of fallen man. **Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word! Amen.**

EPA Investigating if Abortion Pills are Polluting America's Drinking Water

By Steven Ertelt Oct 10, 2025

From LifeNews <https://www.lifenews.com/2025/10/10/epa-investigating-if-abortion-pills-are-polluting-americas-drinking-water>

The Environmental Protection Agency [has launched an internal review](#) to determine if traces of abortion pills like mifepristone are contaminating America's wastewater and drinking water.

Leading pro-life groups warn the chemicals [could be causing miscarriages and stillbirths in unsuspecting communities](#). The probe, directed by senior EPA officials over the summer, stems from a June 18 letter signed by 25 Republican members of Congress, including Sen. James Lankford and Rep. Josh Brecheen, both of Oklahoma.

The lawmakers urged EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin to investigate potential pollution from the drug, questioning: "Are there existing E.P.A.-approved methods for detecting mifepristone and its active metabolites in water supplies?" and "If not, what resources are needed to develop these testing methods?"

EPA scientists, specializing in chemical detection, informed officials that no approved methods currently exist but new ones could be developed if warranted, according to two people familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The request marks a highly unusual intervention, as the agency typically focuses on broader contaminants like PFAS chemicals rather than specific pharmaceuticals. But pro-life groups hailed the inquiry as a critical step toward exposing the hidden environmental toll of chemical abortions, which now account for nearly two-thirds of all U.S. abortions, killing millions of babies. They argue that mifepristone, a potent progesterone blocker, and the remains of aborted babies are flushed into sewage systems, evading proper medical waste protocols and polluting downstream water supplies.

"[M]ifepristone is a potent progesterone blocker that disrupts hormonal balance in pregnant women to induce abortion. This raises questions about the drug's potential endocrine-disrupting effects when present in drinking water supplies," the congressional letter stated. "If residual amounts of the drug and its metabolites persist in wastewater, prolonged exposure could potentially interfere with a person's fertility, regardless of sex."

Lankford amplified those fears during an interview on "Washington Watch with Tony Perkins," noting: "As gross as it sounds, much of our sewage water ends up being filtered" through wastewater treatment plants and becomes "drinking water downstream. But that process doesn't take out everything." (**continued on p.5**)

(continued from p.4)

He added: "PFAS [per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances] ... medications, or other chemicals are often still in the system." "What happens when it gets recycled back into our drinking water? Does that affect future fertility? Can that cause miscarriages? We don't know because that's never been studied."

The EPA itself acknowledged last September that up to 10% of contaminants may survive two stages of wastewater treatment, a vulnerability that pro-life researchers say allows mifepristone residues to linger. Sanitation officials have documented fully formed pre-born babies in treatment facilities across South Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma and Mississippi, underscoring what advocates call a systemic disregard for human remains.

John Stemberger, president of Liberty Counsel Action, described the scale of the crisis in an interview on "Washington Watch," estimating that "40 tons of aborted babies' bodies" become "medical waste — going into toilets, going into sewer systems, going into septic tanks, and ultimately going into the water systems that process our drinking water."

In a 78-page report coauthored by his group, Stemberger charged: "abortion providers issuing chemical abortion pills have been able to use wastewater treatment plants as their de-facto medical waste facilities for decades."

The report contends that this practice violates the Clean Water Act, which defines pollutants to include "biological materials" and "medical waste" such as "human blood and blood products; pathological wastes" and "body parts," as well as the National Environmental Policy Act, which mandates environmental impact statements for actions with "reasonably foreseeable significant effect on the quality of the human environment."

No such studies were conducted prior to FDA approvals of mifepristone in 2000, 2016 or 2022, the report notes. Kristan Hawkins of Students for Life of America praised the congressional push in a statement to The Washington Stand, thanking the lawmakers who "demand evaluation of the global consequences of the reckless deregulation and lack of testing."

News from Loving Arms, Macomb County Chapter 94 of LFL

By Karen Hoerauf, President 586-247-5177 51hills@sbcglobal.net

"We are the Pro-Life Generation." This was the chant of hundreds of teenagers at the March for Life in Lansing, Michigan two years ago. They will march and chant again on November 6 in Lansing. Yes, teenagers are using their feet and voices now to stand up for LIFE. They will soon become influential voters and policy makers.

Young people associated with Y4 Life will also join the March for Life in Washington, DC on January 23, 2026. Loving Arms, Lutherans for Life chapter 94 responded to an appeal for Y4 Life student scholarships for this march. The national goal was to raise \$10,000. This chapter's donation was \$1,000. We thank our generous donors who made this possible.

May God bless our young Christians and their witness for LIFE. II Timothy 3:14-15 says, "As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

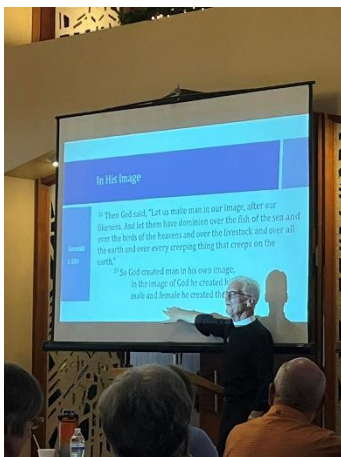
The next planning meeting of Loving Arms will be Saturday, January 10, 2026 10 am-11:30 at St. John Lutheran Church, 16339 Fourteen Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026 Please use the west church entry door. All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Karen Hoerauf text: 586-876-5809.

What's Happening in Michigan?

In September, the Life Team at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Clinton Twp. hosted the DOXOLOGY event entitled In HIS Image: Navigating Christian Sexuality in a Post-Christian Culture. DOXOLOGY is The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel and, through a grant from The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, offers these conferences at no cost. Pastor David Fleming (Our Savior Lutheran in Grand Rapids) and Dr. Beverly Yahnke (licensed clinical psychologist) gave four presentations on this very important topic. The presentations were Wonderfully Made: The Christian Worldview and Sexuality, Caring for the Child Who Identifies as Transgender: Understanding the Big Picture, GPS Essentials for Travel Through Difficult Conversations, and Light in the Darkness: Christian Responses to Conflict in a Sexually Toxic Culture.

It was an excellent event that educated us on the theology and psychology of gender struggles and how we can care for people who are struggling with a listening ear and with the truth and love of the Savior. We were also provided abundant encouragement and hope from God's Word to shore us up and bring peace amidst the sorrows of this world. An additional beautiful part of these events is that they begin and end with prayer offices, so we were blessed with Matins and Vespers and two wonderful sermons from Pastor Rod Schultz from St. Luke.

For more information on all the work of DOXOLOGY, including how to attend or host an In HIS Image event, go to www.doxology.us or contact the Event Coordinator Nancy at 262-955-0822.



Legislative Report

By Pastor Paul Clark

On Sept. 9th, the Michigan Department of Education announced proposed new health education standards. The proposed standards deviate drastically from current health ed standards, merging sexual education content into health classes including teaching about sexual and “reproductive health” and teaching children about “trusted” community resources which may include directing children to Planned Parenthood. Current law requires parental notification and opt-out options for sex ed, but not for health ed. Parental rights to be involved in the education of their children, especially if that education will promote abortion or refer children to abortion providers, is extremely important and opt-out provisions are essential.

On Sept. 5th, the World Health Organization (WHO) published their latest edition of its essential medicines list which included the abortion drugs mifepristone and misoprostol. It should be noted that the U.S. withdrew from the WHO in January this year due to its mishandling of the Covid 19 pandemic.

On Sept. 11th, the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the one year defund of Planned Parenthood may proceed. This ruling overturned the nationwide injunction of the defund provision that was put in place by Judge Indira Talwani. Planned Parenthood will no longer be a Medicaid eligible provider (for 1 year) thus depriving them of over \$700,000 in annual reimbursements from taxpayers. Following the ruling, Planned Parenthood of Michigan said they would no longer accept Medicaid patients after Sept. 22nd.

On Sept. 15th, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced that it will no longer renew research grants that utilize human fetal tissue. It seems likely that no new grants in this area will be funded as well. Despite calls by prolife legislators, funding for research using embryonic stem cells continues. During fiscal years (FY) 2021-2023, the NIH spent nearly \$1 billion on embryo-destroying stem cell research and estimates spending an additional \$318 million in FY2025.



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

2026 Michigan Essay Contest

Sponsored by the LFL Council of Federation Presidents

For Students in Grades 6 – 8 and 9 – 12

Any student in a Lutheran school or Lutheran congregation (e.g., confirmation class, youth group, Lutheran home school) is eligible when validated by their teacher or pastor, along with parental consent. Each school or congregation may send in **ONE** entry. We recommend holding a contest at the school/congregation to choose the winning essay to send on to the Lutherans For Life of Michigan contest.

Contest Guidelines

Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme **“That They May Have Life”** using John 10:10 - *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”* Examples of topics the essay could deal with are – but are not limited to – abortion, disabilities, adoption, foster care, infanticide, physician-assisted suicide, hospice care, sexual purity, etc. For more information on life topics, see lutheransforlife.org.

1. The first page of the essay must include the student’s name, grade, school or church, a personal mailing address, email address, and phone number (of the student or parent).
2. All entries must be submitted by a teacher or pastor and include their contact information.
3. Grades 6 – 8 should submit essays up to 400 words. The word count does not include the title, footnotes, or bibliography.
4. Grades 9 – 12 should submit essays up to 750 words. The word count does not include the title, footnotes, or bibliography.
5. Entries must be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word or Google Docs (*PDF files or other formats will not be accepted*). Email your entry to Lauren Schaidt at schaidtl@gmail.com by February 28, 2026.
6. Missing any of the following items will cause disqualification:
 - a. The essay must include the entire theme and entire theme Bible verse as part of the written text.
 - b. Each essay must include a title. Using the required theme as a title is acceptable but does not replace using the theme and verse within the essay.
 - c. The essay must be in complete agreement with the Lutherans For Life mission to “Equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life”.
 - d. A Bibliography listing sources used is required.
 - e. Exceeding the appropriate word count is not acceptable.

7. Essays should make good use of standard essay writing components, including introduction and conclusion, main points, organization, style, mechanics, sources, and bibliography (*See page 2 for directions on using these elements*).
8. There will be a \$150 first-place award and a \$100 second-place award for each of the two categories. The two first place category winners will advance to the national contest.
9. The national award for the winning entry in each category is \$500 for first place, plus free conference registration to the 2026 Lutherans For Life national conference for the student and his/her parents, one-night stay at the conference hotel for the student and his/her parents, \$200 travel expense reserved for conference travel only, and a framed certificate. The second-place award is \$250 and a framed certificate.
10. All entries, including exclusive copyrights, become the property of Lutherans For Life.
11. For support or resources on the sanctity of life, see lutheransforlife.org.

Helpful Information about Good Essay Structural Elements

- **Introduction and Conclusion** – The reader is engaged by a well-developed introduction that creates interest. The conclusion effectively wraps up the essay by clearly drawing a conclusion to support the essay position.
- **Main Points** – The main idea and statements are clear and may come from a variety of sources, including personal experience, observations, feelings, or prior knowledge. Supporting details are accurate and helpful to the main point. Statistics and other research, if used, are used effectively.
- **Organization** – The essay shows a logical progression of ideas that enhance the essay. Transitions are graceful, with a smooth flow.
- **Style** – The paper is honest and enthusiastic. The language is natural and shares a message from the heart of the writer. Writing is smooth, skillful, and makes sense.
- **Mechanics** – Punctuation, spelling, and capitalizations are correct with no run-on sentences.
- **Sources** – All sources for references, statistics, and quotes are referenced within the essay by listing the author or source in parentheses after the quote.
- **Bibliography** – A simple bibliography/works-cited page gives references for the sources used including the author, source title, page number or website.

Upcoming Events

Michigan March for Life 2025

Join us for the Second Michigan March for Life on November 6, 2025!



The first-ever Michigan March for Life on the one-year anniversary of the passage of Proposal 3 (November 8, 2023) was a huge success. There is no question the prolife movement is growing and gaining influence and support. The second Michigan March for Life is another excellent opportunity for advocates for life of all ages and political persuasions from across the state to join us in Lansing with one voice on behalf of women and children, including the unborn! For details, please go to <https://rtl.org/event/michigan-march-for-life>). *This event is sponsored by Right to Life of Michigan and the March for Life.*



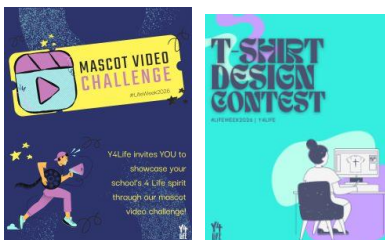
Check out the information on national Lutherans For Life's Life Week 2026! Life Sunday this year is January 19th. This is a great day to share LFL resources with your congregation!

(Information on Life Week 2026 is from <https://lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2026>)

Life Week 2026: Sunday, January 18 – Saturday, January 24, 2026

"I praise you Lord for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14).

- Check out more resources: [Store: Life Sunday 2026](#)
- [Y4Life in Washington, D.C. – January 22-24, 2026](#)
- [Y4Life Summit – February 20-22, 2026](#)
- [Y4Life College Leadership Retreat – March 27-29, 2026](#)



Click on the images above to download information about our Mascot Video Challenge and T-Shirt Design Contest.

Life Week 2026 Zoom Link

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83862063962>

Meeting ID: 838 6206 3962

Passcode: 823940

Use the link above for all Life Week 2026 online presentations.

Life Week 2026 | Fearfully and Wonderfully Made Coloring Pages

- Download: [Life Week 2026 Coloring Pages](#)
-

Daily Themes:

Sunday, January 18 – Fearfully and Wonderfully Made ... As God's Own

Life Issues: Created-Redeemed-Called Biblical foundation; every life is valuable

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske

- [Activity Sheet – Day 1 – As God's Own](#)
 - [Fact Sheet Day 1](#)
-

Monday, January 19 – Fearfully and Wonderfully Made ... With a God-Given Identity

Life Issues: Identity; Creation vs. Evolution, focus on the science that supports Creation; family; sexuality; marriage; vocation of singleness

Speaker: Rev. Darrell Debowey

- [Activity Sheet – Day 2 – With a God-Given Identity](#)
 - *Fact Sheet Day 2 – To be added.*
-

Tuesday, January 20 – Fearfully and Wonderfully Made ... Despite the Pre-natal Diagnosis

Life Issues: Down Syndrome; Trisomy 13/18; Pregnancy Loss; Disabilities (physical and mental); Pre-natal testing

Speaker: Rev. Daniel Freeman

- [Activity Sheet – Day 3 – Despite the Prenatal Diagnosis](#)
- [Fact Sheet Day 3](#)

Wednesday, January 21 – Fearfully and Wonderfully Made ... For a Forever Family (adoption and foster care)

Life Issues: Adoption; foster care; behavioral disorders; familial/cultural loss

Speakers: Rev. Derek and Gretchen Roberts

- [Activity Sheet – Day 4 – For a Forever Family](#)
 - [Fact Sheet Day 4](#)
-

Thursday, January 22 – Fearfully and Wonderfully Made ... For Life

Life Issues: Apologetics; Sexuality; Human development

Y4Life Speaker: Dr. Donna Harrison

- [Activity Sheet – Day 5 – For Life](#)
 - [Fact Sheet Day 5](#)
-

Friday, January 23 – Fearfully and Wonderfully Made ... Even When it Hurts

Life Issues: Rape; incest; adoption; depression; suicide; self-harm

Panel Speakers: Rev. Todd Peperkorn, Ryan Bomberger, Rev. Harrison Goodman, Bev Yahnke

YA Speaker: Chrissie Gillet

- [Activity Sheet – Day 6 – Even When It Hurts](#)
 - [Fact Sheet Day 6](#)
-

Saturday, January 24 – Fearfully and Wonderfully Made ... To Serve and Be Served

Life Issues: End-of-life; physician assisted suicide; importance of sacraments; servanthood and vocation; Autism/Asperger's/Tourette's; PTSD

Adult, Y4Life, and YA Speaker: Rev. Matthew Harrison

Youth Speaker: Rev. Todd Peperkorn

- [Day 7 – To Serve and Be Served](#)

Introducing... Congregational House of Refuge



Shine your light internally and externally, sharing how your congregation is a safe place for pregnant mothers. Your support will give them hope to raise their baby. Walk with them should they decide adoption is their choice. During this special time you and your church are there as their child develops and they prepare for this next stage in life.

How do you do this?

- The pastor reviews the program carefully recommending it to church leaders.
- The congregational leaders review and approve the program.
- The leaders share the program with the congregation for approval.
- The pastor submits the Congregational House of Refuge agreement.
- The pastor reads a commitment statement in worship twice a year.
- The congregation gets involved through mentoring, praying, and providing a representative to handle the program details.
- The congregation is listed on a locator map of other Lutheran congregations engaged in this program.

Program Guide

- Download: [Congregational House of Refuge Program Guide](#)
- Download: [Congregational House of Refuge Statement](#)
- Download: [Congregational House of Refuge Representative Commissioning and Installation Litany](#)

Pastor, as you have reviewed the program guide, are you are ready to become a Congregational House of Refuge? If YES, click below.

Register ►

(from <https://lutheransforlife.org/congregational-house-of-refuge>

Visit this site to download and read the information shown above.)

Some of the Resources for Lil' Lutherans 4 Life

Find them at www.cph.org, search for "Lil' Lutherans 4 Life"



Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Morning and Night Prayers Series
\$1.50



Lil' Lutherans 4 Life "I Can Come to Jesus" Series
\$1.50



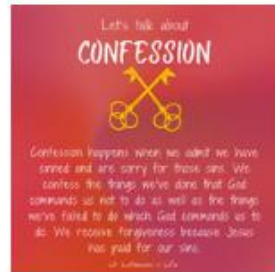
Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Advent Series
\$1.50



Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Morning Prayers
\$1.50



Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Night Prayers
\$1.50



Lil' Lutherans 4 Life – Let's Talk About Confession
\$1.50



Lil' Lutherans 4 Life – Let's Talk About Absolution
\$1.50



Lil' Lutherans 4 Life – Let's Talk About Baptism
\$1.50



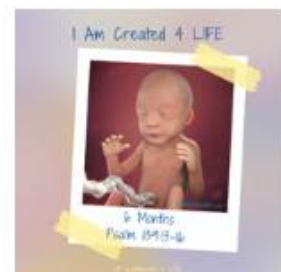
Lil' Lutherans 4 Life – Let's Talk About Grace
\$1.50



Lil' Lutherans 4 Life – Jesus Brings Joy 4 Life | Advent
\$1.50



Lil' Lutherans 4 Life – Jesus Brings Love 4 Life | Advent
\$1.50



Lil' Lutherans 4 Life – I Am Created 4 Life – 6 Months
\$1.50

Some of the Resources for Y4Life

Find them at www.cph.org, search for "Y4Life"



Human Development Y4Life
Infographic Booklet Series
\$2.00



Human Development | Part 1:
Weeks 1-8 - A Y4Life
Infographic Booklet
\$2.00



The Dangerous Effects of
Pornography - A Y4Life
Infographic Brochure
\$0.50



Human Development | Part 3:
Weeks 21-40 - A Y4Life
Infographic Booklet
\$2.00



Human Development | Part 2:
Weeks 9-20 - A Y4Life
Infographic Booklet
\$2.00



Abortion and Race (fold-out
brochure)
\$1.00



Foster Care (fold-out
brochure)
\$2.00



Abortion Fast Facts (fold-out
brochure)
\$2.00



All resources are great for adults, too!

Frontline Playbooks

Find the *Belonging* Playbook at <https://lutheransforlife.org/frontline-playbook-belonging> and look for the *Hopeful* Playbook soon!

Frontline Playbook Series

This is a collection of life-affirming resources in a series of programs with each having its own theme. All items are usable in group settings or one-on-one activities. Each life topic has multiple elements. Use them as a complete program or as a stand-alone resource.



BELONGING

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God."
(Ephesians 2:19)

Welcome to the Frontline Playbook!

Within each Frontline Playbook issue will be four topical presentations and associated resources. You have available to you a video presentation, devotion, fact sheet, and activity sheet for each of the four topical resources. Use these to plan or implement an event, a Bible study, or another creative way to use the material provided.



You may use the entire Playbook as an educational opportunity for your life group during your meetings. Consider sponsoring an event at church and include the video presentations and other useful resources. Talk to your pastor about using these during a Bible study hour for either large or small group studies. Each video will run about 40 to 50 minutes, giving you time to review the fact sheets and do an activity. You may choose to engage people in an activity either pre- or post-event to spur interest in the actual event. We suggest you use the devotion provided as an opening followed by the video, which can be accessed from a video link on our LFL website.

And there will be more ... We have been asked for more ways to assist you in planning For Life activities at your churches, and we are thrilled to provide the Frontline Playbook series.

As you plan your For Life goals for this coming year, please consider including the Frontline Playbook series in your plans. We have provided detailed steps, but if you have questions or suggestions on how to make this even better, please reach out to the [Volunteer Relations Team](#).

(Article from <https://lutheransforlife.org/frontlineplaybook/>):

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Verba Vitae



A Serious Christian Journal of Life
and its Significance

Verba Vitae: A Serious Christian Journal of Life and its Significance

Everywhere we look these days we see conversations politicized. Reasoned argument is skipped in the effort to discern what an author's political opinions really are, and whether they accord with what they *should* be. The Left and Right collide, hurling slogans at each other, often baiting and belittling the other to advance their own agendas. Throughout vast regions of academia, power has seemingly replaced reason, with all thinking now being understood ideologically.

But while people on opposite ends of the political spectrum organize to persuade, they eschew the less glamorous task of *analysis*. However, for conversation to proceed rationally, presuppositions from each side must be examined calmly, and words must be understood properly. Analysis can allow disputants to become conversation partners, for common ground can often be found where none seemed possible before.

Verba Vitae is committed to bringing the classical Christian tradition into conversation with life issues now confronting us. Modeling the reasoned *logos* of the theological tradition, *Verba Vitae* explores the truth-claims made by thinkers and examines the grounds upon which these assertions are made. It is interested in what is being talked about when thinkers employ the language of rights and goods, or when thinkers speak of God. It is accordingly interested in fostering and modeling *informed* conversation. How do people talk to each other respectfully when holding differing conceptions of the good? (from www.verba-vitae.org, accessed June 29, 2024)

Lutherans For Life is collaborating with the Institute of Lutheran Theology to launch the *Verba Vitae* journal. It continues the Lutheran legacy of rigorous and responsible intellectual inquiry. This is especially relevant to current consideration of human dignity, which remains essential to Western civilization and Christian witness. (Salemink, Michael. "A Statement of Support for Verba Vitae". *Verba Vitae Journal* 1, no. 1-2 (March 29, 2024): 15. Accessed June 29, 2024. <https://verba-vitae.org/index.php/vvj/article/view/7>.)

Visit <https://verba-vitae.org> for more information, to read the journal, to subscribe, and to submit an article.

A Note from the Treasurer

by Brendan McMahon

We praise and thank the Lord of Life for your generous donations. Your gifts enable us to carry out our mission in Michigan churches, schools, and communities, to give witness to the sanctity of all human life, from fertilization until forever, based upon the Word of God. And they allow us to provide most resources free of charge.

We are pleased that we have been able to provide financial support to several pregnancy resource centers around the state. We would be pleased to discuss aiding and providing seed money to help start a Life Team at your congregation or to help your Life Team progress to the next step. We would also like to discuss assisting your congregation in hosting a Life Issues event.

Donations to Lutherans For Life of Michigan

When making a general donation, you may just mail your check to the address below and write your return address on it. If the name(s) and address on the check are correct, no other information is required. If not, please provide the name(s) that are to be acknowledged as the donor(s) on a separate sheet of paper. Also, if your address has changed, please provide your new address.

If your donation is an honorarium or memorial, please provide the information identified in the form below. You may cut out the form and fill in the information or provide it on a separate sheet of paper.

All donations to Lutherans For Life of Michigan can be sent to:

Lutherans For Life of Michigan Treasurer

c/o Brendan McMahon

25646 Castlereigh Dr.

Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Memorials or Honorary Gifts

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OR

The enclosed gift is in honor of _____

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Your name _____

Donations to National Lutherans For Life

The "I WANT TO SPEAK FOR LIFE" form provided is to be used to give a donation to National Lutherans For Life in Nevada, IA. When using that form you need to provide your own envelope and mail it to the address shown on the bottom of the form. Lutherans For Life of Michigan is part of Lutherans For Life, but we have separate budgets and bank accounts. The National office has paid staff members but Lutherans For Life of Michigan has no paid staff. National sponsors conferences and develops resources to be used throughout the United States and other countries. LFL of MI provides educational information and sponsors events and conferences in Michigan churches, schools, and communities.

I WANT TO SPEAK OUT FOR LIFE!

I want to become a member of LFL (Please select a membership category.)

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

____ Sponsor: I commit to a monthly gift of \$ ____ (Annual & Sponsor contributions to LFL are tax-deductible.)

I'm not interested in membership, but am enclosing a contribution of \$ ____ to support the national efforts of LFL.

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Clip and send to: Lutherans For Life, 1101 – 5th Street, Nevada, IA 50201-1816

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In the Next Issue...

Legislative Report

What's Happening in Michigan

A Report on the 2025 March For Life
in Lansing

A Report on the 2026 March For Life
in Washington, D.C.

Upcoming Events

And More!

Quotes

“To all the men watching around the world, accept Charlie's challenge and embrace true manhood. Be strong and courageous for your families. Love your wives and lead them. Love your children and protect them. Be the spiritual head of your home. But please be a leader worth following.

.... Women, I have a challenge for you, too. Be virtuous. Our strength is found in God's design for our role. We are the guardians. We are the encouragers. We are the preservers. Guard your heart. Everything you do flows from it. And if you're a mother, please recognize that is the single most important ministry you have.”

- Erika Kirk (from
<https://transcripts.cnn.com/show/cnr/date/2025-09-21/segment/06>)