

Lifelines

Feb/Mar/Apr 2025

President's Column

by Pastor Paul Clark, President of Lutherans For Life of Michigan

There is a geological phenomenon known as a *fumarole*, found in areas of volcanic activity. A fumarole is a vent or an opening in the earth's surface that emits steam and volcanic gasses. They can be quite dangerous, as they can emit suffocating levels of carbon dioxide, acidic sulfide, or chloride gas. In 2009, three ski patrol members died at a popular California ski resort. After a snowstorm, ski patrol members were fencing off a volcanic fumarole when the snow around the vent collapsed. Two members slid into the deep hole and rapidly lost consciousness. Another one went down into the hole to help them and succumbed to the fumes. All three of them died.

The problem with a toxic gas is that you cannot see it. But its effects, though silent, are deadly.

We are approaching another *Life Sunday*, that time when we remember an infamous day in American History when, on January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court decided in the case of Roe v. Wade, that quite apart from anything in the Constitution, there was a right for a woman to have an abortion. For over 48 years, those who believed in and valued the sanctity of human life have fought against this heavy shroud of evil that lay over our land from the horrendous genocide of abortion. On June 24, 2022, *Roe* was finally overturned by the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision. Justice Samuel Alito, writing for the majority, said, "*We hold that Roe and Casey must be overruled. The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision, including the one on which the defenders of Roe and Casey now chiefly rely—the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.*"

But of course, that is *not* the end of the story.

The *Dobbs* decision gave the abortion issue back to the states. Some states used that freedom to protect the lives of the

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unborn. But we all know where our *State of Michigan* went, when on November 8, 2022 – *another day of infamy* – after a great deal of propaganda and misinformation on the issue, voters chose to enshrine abortion in Michigan for all nine months of pregnancy without restriction, passing what was called *Proposal 3*.

And *here we are*, in January of 2025, still fiercely battling for the precious lives of dear little babies, who just happen to have residence in the womb.

But we will never give up this fight.

Like those volcanic fumaroles, the toxic gas of abortion reaches into every crevice of society. It affects how we look at the value of life itself, the lives of others, and our lives as well. If an unborn child is not worth protecting, then perhaps there are other groups of people not worth our protection. It may be no coincidence that we are witnessing a rise in Anti-Semitism, for example. Or a terrorist-driven truck plowing through a crowd of innocent people in New Orleans. Or a national rise in suicide rates, including an increasing push for physician-assisted suicide. ***If human life is not sacred, what does it matter whether we live or die?***

But human life ***IS*** sacred, for ***GOD*** gives life as a gift. And God not only (*continued p.4*)

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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Medical Consultant:

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Email address: lflmi.president@gmail.com

Website: www.lflmi.org

THANK YOU...

*Pauline Terry, Vassar, MI
In memory of Boyd Terry*

*John & Ronda Brandt, Mt. Clemens, MI
In honor of Mia Brandt's 2nd birthday*

*Marvin & Patricia Warnez, Shelby Twp., MI
In memory of Walter R. Elliott*

Brian & Tani Rentz, Kentwood, MI

Bronners CHRISTmas WONDERLAND, Frankenmuth, MI

*Dennis & Judith Williams, Lansing, MI
In honor of all their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren*

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In memory of Pastor Fuhlbrigge*

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Eugene Morabito, Ann Arbor, MI

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John Boldt, Monroe, MI

Dee Ann Henn, Okemos, MI

*Ronald Christian, Mt. Clemen, MI
In honor of Lynn S. Christian*

Anonymous

Grace Lutheran Church Women's Guild, Baldwin, MI

*Terry Davis, Macomb, MI
In memory of Christopher Davis*

Ronald & Linda Krueger, Clay Twp., MI

Belva Iseler, Hale, MI

Earl Iseler, Byron Center, MI

(continued on p.3)

Thank You (continued from p.2)

Marvin & Patricia Warnez, Shelby Twp., MI

William & Carolyn Burns, Portage, MI

James & Janet Hecht, Vassar, MI

John & Elizabeth Reusch, West Bloomfield, MI

Lori Stolzenfeld, Macomb, MI

Ronald & Wanda Beck, Eastpointe, MI

*Earl & JoAnne Iseler, Byron Center, MI
In honor of Warren (Bud) Rentz*

Jan Arnold, Menominee, MI

Joanne Frank, Frankenmuth, MI

Marguerute DeWitt, Harrison, MI

*Timothy & Rebecca Schilling, Fraser, MI
In honor of Carol Stathakis' retirement from Lutheran education*

Brian & Tania Rentz, Kentwood, MI

Ralph & Kathleen Wagner, Hawks, MI

Verna Dubke, Berrien Springs, MI

Richard & Nancy Hillenbrand, Sterling Heights, MI

Trinity Lutheran School, Sturgis, MI

St. Peter Lutheran Church, St. Johns, MI

*Lester & Ronda Chapman, Haven, MI
In memory of their first grandchild*

Gary & Jean Peters, Interlochen, MI

Jeri Lou Simpson, Carleton, MI

*Paula Lueke, Bad Axe, MI
In memory of Donald VanCura*

Larry Henn, Okemos, MI

Peter A. Bullock, Lansing, MI

Bethel Lutheran Church, Howard City, MI

J, Nicholas & Pamela Bostic, Holt, MI

*James & Ruth Tafel, Alto, MI
In memory of Mae Baker*

Kathleen Ellison, Macomb, MI

Marguerite Janetzke, Midland, MI

Barbara Szymanski, Dearborn, MI

Please let us know how you would prefer to receive Lifelines!

It is available by email, mail, or on our website www.lflmi.org. If you would like to change how you receive it, please contact us at schaidt@gmail.com or (586)214-3116.

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

News from Loving Arms, Macomb County Chapter 94 of LFL

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

“Would you like to hold the baby?” That was the invitation of Abby and Barbara (pictured right) to church members from St. John Lutheran, Fraser on October 27. The girls were lovingly cradling 26-week fetal models.

The models were part of a display prior to the November 4 election, promoting a prolife vote. The spontaneous enthusiasm of the girls was more effective than the literature at the display.

Our *Loving Arms Lutherans For Life* chapter continues to share the message of God’s gift of life in the classrooms of Lutheran schools and in school chapel presentations. Children are so effective at then taking the message of life home to their families. Using the fetal models, produced by Heritage House, are a way for children to see and feel the awesome detail of the preborn child. We thank LFL of Michigan for the gift of the first set of fetal models given to Lutheran schools. Our *Loving Arms* chapter recently added dark skinned models to show the variety of God’s children.



(President’s Column continued from p.1)

gives life but He so loved us that He gave us ***His own Son, Jesus Christ***, that whoever believes in Him would not perish, but have eternal life.

So, the battle for the right to life goes on.

We need to clearly cut through the smokescreen of lies and deceit that are used so well by abortion advocates to cover up the real issue. Abortion is *not* a reproductive right. It is *not* about health care, though that has been a successful label to disguise what at the heart of things is spiritually, emotionally, and often physically harmful to the mother, and always deadly to the child. There is nothing good that comes out of an abortion. The anticipated result of every single abortion is this: *A dead baby*.

When someone tells us, *“I don’t like abortion, but we need to maintain the right to abortion because women can die otherwise without proper medical help,”* then be ready to take that on with facts. The fact is that no state anywhere prohibits a doctor from doing what is necessary during a crisis pregnancy to save the life of the mother, and that includes ectopic pregnancies. We need to continue to push for the best medical care and use of technological advances to protect all people, adults, children, and the unborn. That is the mark of a *civilized* society. The current abortion culture – *especially here in Michigan* – is the mark of a *barbarian* society. Of this, we should be ashamed.

Moms and Dads, pick up your child. Look into their eyes. ***Grandparents***, or aunts and uncles, cuddle with that little boy or girl that is so dear to you. ***THIS*** is what the battle is about. ***Churchgoers***, look at that baby or child in the pew next to you. They have a right to life. They *had* that right to life even when they were in the womb. They are not just animals, evolutionary products of chance that have no value. They are *not disposable*. They are human beings, created in the image of God. Don’t let the advocates of abortion and the media lie to you and try to convince you that this is about health care or reproductive freedom. *It’s not*. It’s about ***LIFE***.

And so, *we will keep on keeping on*. We will remain undaunted by the challenges ahead. We will step up to provide even more resources for our pregnancy centers to help young women choose life. We will do our part to encourage our family and friends to see the beauty and dignity in each life. We will look at each baby, born and unborn, as a gift from God, *with boundless value*. We will wisely use our resources, our monetary gifts, and our talents and abilities to support and engage in the battle for life.

Most of all, we will continue to pray to the **LORD OF LIFE**, to work in the mind and heart of each person **to bring them to faith in Jesus**, that they may be saved, and that they may join us in beholding the value of every person under God's heaven.

Like a fumarole, that emits toxic gasses, beware of *the fumarole of the abortion culture*, for that poison seeps out into every level of our society, and its effects are devastating. **Stand up and fight! Engage in the battle for the Right to Life!**

We have **One** who fights alongside us and is *for* us – as the great Epiphany hymn says–

“For Christ goes with us all the way – today, tomorrow, every day!

His love is never ending!

Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exaltation! Tell the story!

Great is He, the King of Glory!”

Amen.

LFLMI President, Pastor Paul Clark was honored to speak at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Hemlock at their annual baby shower for the local pregnancy center. (photos below, submitted by Pastor Paul Clark)



Upcoming Events in Michigan

The Annual Diaper Drive

When: Mother's Day – Father's Day (May 11th – June 15th)

What: Collect diapers to donate to local pregnancy centers

Where: Your congregation

Let us know how many you collect and where you donate them (contact Lauren at schaidt1@gmail.com or 586-214-3116). We love to print it to bring awareness of our many pregnancy centers in Michigan and encourage others to support them throughout the year!



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

2025 Michigan Essay Contest

Sponsored by the 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.

Contest Guidelines

Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme **“Fearfully and Wonderfully Made”** using Psalm 139:13-14: *“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”*

1. 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.
2. 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).
3. All entries must be submitted by a teacher or pastor and include their contact information.
4. Grades 6 – 8 should submit essays up to 400 words, e.g., The word count does not include the title, footnotes, or bibliography.
5. Grades 9 – 12 should submit essays up to 750 words e.g., The word count does not include the title, footnotes, or bibliography.
6. 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, 2025.
7. The following are items that will cause disqualification:
 - a. The essay must include the theme and theme Bible verse.
 - 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.
8. Essays should make good use of standard essay writing components, including introduction and conclusion, main points, organization, style, mechanics, sources, and bibliography (*See the next page for directions on using these elements*).
9. 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.
10. The national award for the winning entry in each category is \$500 for first place, plus free conference registration to the 2025 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.

11. All entries, including exclusive copyrights, become the property of Lutherans For Life.

12. 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.

What's Happening...



Every year the women's ministry makes baby blankets to be displayed and blessed on Life Sunday, and this year we had Mrs. Pfeiffer's first grade class help us complete some of the blankets. We also had a Life Team table in the narthex filled with For Life information and display boards with information on Compassion



Pregnancy Center, Abigayle Ministry and Lutherans for Life. (pictures left and right, submitted by Carol Poterek, St. Peter Lutheran Church and School in Macomb)



The Life Team at Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church and School in Hartland, in partnership with The Body of Christ and the Public Square, presented An Evening For Life. Conservative Radio Host Bob Ditko (pictured above left) spoke on Christian apologetics on the For Life position and how we do not need to be afraid to speak the truth and share the facts with people. LFLMI President and Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fowler (second photo above) spoke on the importance of standing firm in our For Life witness as we share the truth and we love our neighbors in the strength of the Lord. President of Michigan Right to Life Amber Roseboom (third photo above) discussed the current state of For Life laws and culture statewide and nationally and Michigan Right to Life's new initiatives and recommendations for how we can best reach those who are considering abortion and the culture that supports it. Host of The Seth Gruber Show and Founder of the For Life ministry The White Rose Resistance Seth Gruber (pictured above right) spoke on the theological underpinnings of the secular culture, which is based largely, if unknowingly, on the ancient religion of Gnosticism. It includes the belief that the individual is only the internal emotions and desires and the body is of no significance. This means that people can change their bodies and their gender to match what they feel and desire. It also means they can end the life of a child in the womb because he or she doesn't have the cognitive capacity yet to be viewed as a person. It means that someone of any age with cognitive disabilities can be euthanized for the same reason. We must fight against this false religion so prevalent in our society with the truth of God's Word and a true theology of the body and humanity.



It was great to see a group of students and teachers from Lutheran North and Lutheran Northwest high schools there as well. What a blessing it is to have young people interesting in For Life topics and desiring to equip themselves to be voices For Life for many years to come!

Information on future similar events can be found at <https://www.bodyofchristandthepublicsquare.org>.

...in Michigan?



Life Sunday and Life Breakfast (above left) are held annually at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fowler. Mrs. Amber Roseboom (above middle), President of Right To Life of Michigan, was the special speaker. Pictured right are this year's Life Essay contestants Neelah O'Rourke, Aleena Long, Lydia Klammer, and Christiana Klammer, along with Pastor Paul Clark and Pastor Lance Klammer. *(submitted by Pastor Paul Clark)*

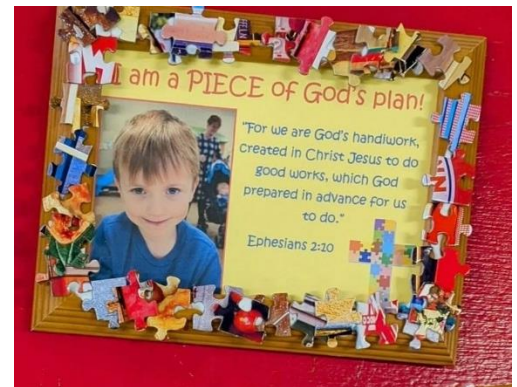


Life Sunday resource table at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Macomb *(left, submitted by Gail Thompson)*

Life Sunday at St. John Lutheran Church in Fraser was extra special this year with the baptism of Gwendolyn Joy Gorman, pictured right with her parents James and Nora, and big brother Matthias. *(submitted by Jeannette Meyer)*



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Washington Twp. celebrated Life Sunday with the children in Sunday School. *(pictured left and right, submitted by Mandi Wesley)*



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE OF MICHIGAN PRESENTS

A LIFE SUMMIT

The Noble Quest:

Defending Life in the Trenches

SUNDAY, APRIL 27th, 2025, FROM 2:00-5:00PM

AT

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

329 N. SORRELL STREET, FOWLER, MICHIGAN 48835

PLEASE JOIN US for this event to hear and learn how we can be involved in proclaiming and defending the value of every human life. This is a great event for our congregational Life Teams, Life Advocates, pastors, lay leaders, as well as anyone who would like to become more prepared to share the **FOR LIFE** message!

SPEAKERS:

DR. PETER SCAER: The Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer joined the faculty of *Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW)*, in 2000. His teaching centers on the Gospels of Luke and Mark, the sacramental ministry of Jesus, and the church's confession during times of persecution. He did his undergraduate work in the classics at Indiana University, then earned an MDiv from CTSFW in 1992. His Notre Dame doctoral dissertation centered on the Lukan passion narrative (2001). From 1996 to 2000, Dr. Scaer served as pastor of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Arcadia, Indiana. Along the way, he has spent many years championing the cause of life, first at *Birthright* and then at *Right to Life of Northeast Indiana* and as founder of *Shepherds United*. He writes and speaks regularly on the cultural issues that affect the church and her confession.

MICHELLE BAUMAN: Michelle Bauman joined the *Lutherans for Life team* on June 1, 2019, and serves as the **Director of Y4Life**. She communicates with high school and university students about issues surrounding life, addressing them from a Biblical perspective, and supports the building and maintaining of Y4Life Teams on high school and college campuses across the nation. She earned her Lutheran Teaching Degree in secondary education from Concordia Nebraska (1998) and a master's degree in English from the University of Indianapolis (2011). Before joining Lutherans For Life, Michelle taught middle school English at Holy Cross Lutheran School in Fort Wayne, Indiana, (1998-2002) and English, Drama, and Speech at Trinity Lutheran High School in Seymour, Indiana (2002-2019). Michelle also served as the Trinity's Recruitment Director (2004-2017). She lives in Columbus, Indiana, with her husband, Doug, who serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church. Together they have two sons and one daughter-in-love.

PASTOR PAUL CLARK is the *Lutherans For Life of Michigan Federation President*, as well as Life Coordinator for the *Michigan District*. Pastor Clark will be the *M.C.* of our event, as well as giving an opening presentation on the theme **"The Noble Quest: Defending Life in the Trenches."**

This event is **free**. Light refreshments will be served. Please **RSVP** (if possible by April 10) to

Pastor Paul Clark at revpmclark@gmail.com - or call or text to **517-420-4826**.

(However, those who have not registered are still welcome to attend.)

What's Happening at Lutherans For Life?

The national level of Lutherans For Life has been busy!

Check out some of the new Resources and Programs for all ages!



Lil' Lutherans 4 Life resources are designed to help parents and teachers of littles, especially **children in preschool through second grade**, uphold little lives. Lil' Lutherans resources establish a Biblical foundation for each child's identity, equip adults to recognize life issues children face and respond to them from a Gospel-motivated perspective, and help children process and respond to life issues in life-affirming ways.

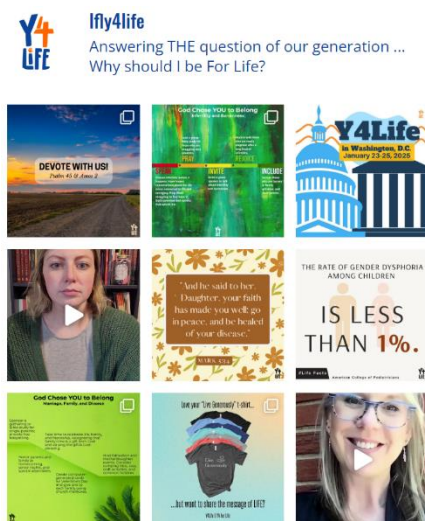


Designed for youth in grades three through eight, the goal of **Y4Life, Jr.** is to help youth recognize their inherent value in Christ and equip them to be Gospel-motivated voices 4 Life. Resources with the Y4Life, Jr. logo will equip **elementary and middle school youth** to locate their identity in Christ, embrace the life-affirming gifts God provides through church and family, and begin engaging in healthy discussions about life issues.

Proclaiming with joy- You are made 4 LIFE!

Y4LIFE (see below left) seeks to equip **high-school- and college-aged youth** to be Gospel-motivated voices 4 Life, publicly and privately pronouncing with joy "You are made 4 LIFE!" as well as answering the question: Why should I be 4 Life? Through service, education, worship, and celebration, youth are encouraged to engage in life-affirming activities and become Leaders 4 Life in their schools, communities, nation, and world! Check out their website www.y4life.org and their Instagram page at Iflyforlife!

YA For Life (see far right) is for **Young Adults in their 20s and 30s**. Check out their Instagram page at Iflyforlife and their website yaforlife.org!



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



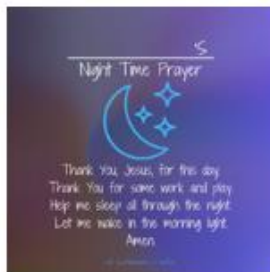
Lil' Lutherans 4 Life "I Can Come to Jesus" Series
\$1.50



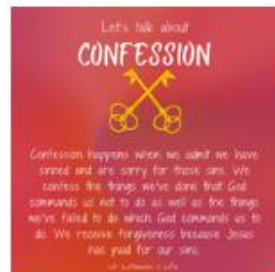
Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Advent Series
\$1.50



Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Morning Prayers
\$1.50



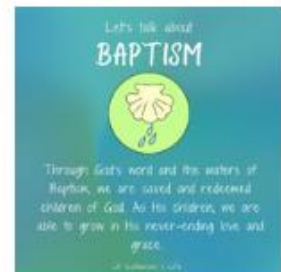
Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Night Prayers
\$1.50



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



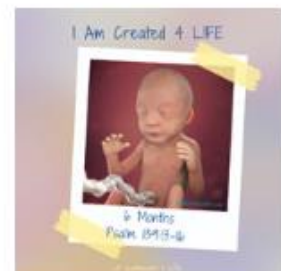
Lil' Lutherans 4 Life – Let's Talk About Grace
\$1.50



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/>):

Virginia J. Flo
Director of Volunteer Relations
651.333.0337
vflo@lutheransforlife.org

Michele Hartshorn
Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations
612.816.6194
mhartshorn@lutheransforlife.org

Barbara Lane Geistfeld, DVM
Volunteer Relations Associate
830.935.3415 (H) | 830.388.8640 (C)
bgeistfeld@lutheransforlife.org



Life Shines in the Darkness



LIFE WEEK 2025
LUTHERANS FOR LIFE



Sunday, January 19, 2025

Life Shines at Church with *Virginia Flo*

Focus: An overview of the created-redeemed-called Gospel motivation and practical suggestions for speaking and showing the sanctity of life in and with the local congregation.

Monday, January 20, 2025

Life Shines at School with *Michelle Bauman*

Focus: Identifying life issues that students especially encounter and outlining the opportunities educational communities have for celebrating sanctity of life in curriculum and on campus.

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Life Shines in Children with *Marie MacPherson*

Focus: Emphasizing the blessings God gives through procreation and parenting and finding ways both to oppose the cultural adult-first outlook and affirm receiving kids - one's own and those of others - as privileges, particularly inculcating in them their worth as well as their neighbors'.

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Life Shines in Money with *Dave Probst & Rev. Michael Salemink*

Focus: Exploring how a consumption economy pressures against the sanctity of life, attending to a Biblical theology of income and expenditure as service to neighbor, and inventorying how to convert cash into investment in Gospel proclamation.

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Life Shines in Dialogue with *Josh Brahm*

Focus: Strategies and practices for speaking the truth in love about life issues, overcoming barriers and opening relationships through conversation and advocacy that display both courage and compassion to warn and win over.

Friday, January 24, 2025

Life Shines in Civic Action with *Kim Laube*

Focus: Reaching beyond voting toward educating oneself about advancing legislation, engaging elected representatives with grace, and identifying local governance arenas that affect sanctity of life matters.

Saturday, January 25, 2025

Life Shines in Vocation with *Rev. Jeff Leininger*

Focus: Leveraging one's relationships, occupations, interests, and environments to demonstrate the sanctity of neighbors and declare to them how God loves every human being.

Zoom Codes

Zoom codes for ALL presentations:

Meeting ID: **823 0198 5273**

Passcode: **Grace**

All presentations will be at 8:00 PM ET, with the exception of Saturday, January 25, which will be at 10:30 AM ET.

Questions? lifeweek2025@lutheransforlife.org

Coming Soon: House of Refuge!

by Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life

(taken from <https://lutheransforlife.org/article/lutherans-for-life-love-life-house-of-refuge>)

Lutherans For Life is delighted to announce an exciting new opportunity!



Save the date for spring 2025, because in a couple of months we'll be inviting your congregation to participate in the House of Refuge initiative.

We're collaborating with our friends at a fellow sanctity-of-life ministry known as [Love Life](#), who developed the House of Refuge project. The House of Refuge represents a brilliantly simple Gospel-motivated witness and service to our communities. A House of Refuge congregation commits publicly and lovingly to active surrounding and ongoing supporting of neighbors experiencing surprise pregnancies.

They undertake this by:

- registering their leadership's consent to readiness and pastoral endorsement of it with Lutherans For Life,
- declaring the House of Refuge pledge in the worshiping assembly at least twice annually and displaying it in a prominent location of their facility,
- designating a parish House of Refuge ambassador,
- publicizing their contact information on Love Life's online nationwide House of Refuge locator,
- and preparing access to material, emotional, social, and spiritual assistance in the event that a community member accepts the House of Refuge invitation. (This may include companionship and mentoring, pastoral counsel, referrals to aid agencies, transportation and housing arrangements, facilitating medical care, and the like.)

The House of Refuge pledge promises to anyone undergoing surprise pregnancy that this congregation regards the condition as a blessing instead of a sin and the child as a privilege rather than a punishment. The congregation affirms they hold precious both the child's life and the welfare of the parents and asserts they will unite their efforts toward whatever it takes to help mother and father carry and care for the little one. The congregation also vows not to subject mother or father to gossip or shame or pressure toward abortion. The congregation devotes themselves to sympathy and solidarity for mothers, to encouraging and commending, and to holding men accountable for their God-given vocations. And the congregation insists on extending the Heavenly Father's forgiveness and healing in Christ Jesus to any who mourn already having aborted their own children.

We believe that formally and frequently proclaiming this pledge makes churches safe places. Rather than running from the household of faith when surprise pregnancy occurs, neighbors both within and outside the Body of Christ will turn to them as a first resort. Young people will come of age formed to know that this security awaits them should they fall into such a situation, and the fellowship will gain a public reputation for the kind of compassion that renders abortion unnecessary. And we hope this gentle and winsome entrance into sanctity-of-life advocacy, devoid of any political dimensions, will lead to greater courage for both the entire congregation and individual members to voice their convictions about these matters.

We are currently completing the process of finalizing program parameters and preparing orientation materials and support resources. Please begin getting ready by informing your congregation that House of Refuge is forthcoming and monitoring Lutherans For Life communications for further details!

Verba Vitae



A Serious Christian Journal of Life
and its Significance

Volume 1, Numbers 1-2
Spring/Summer 2024

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.

Treasurer's Report

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

The enclosed gift is in memory of _____

OR

The enclosed gift is in honor of _____

Please send notification of this gift to:

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Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

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.

Name _____

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

1-888-364-LIFE * (515) 382-3020 * E-mail: info@lutheransforlife.org *

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Lutherans For Life of Michigan

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In the Next Issue...

Legislative Report

What's Happening...in Michigan

More Information on House of Refuge

Upcoming Events

And More!

Quotes

“No amount of scientific progress can defeat death. No political ruler can promise eternal life. Only Jesus can make and keep that promise. The promise of hope and life is ours to proclaim. It is the promise that a world without hope needs to hear. In Jesus we have hope for the future, the living hope of life in His presence forever.” *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

“Perhaps as our culture seems to be increasingly more challenging, it may help to think of hope as the complete opposite of despair. Hope is not optional for the believer. Our hope is secure because, as we all say again, ‘Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!’” *John Stonestreet – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

“I love reminding them that the first diagnosis is, ‘It’s a baby,’ and no other diagnosis ever negates diagnosis number one. The baby is inherently valuable and worthy of our love.” *Dr. Robin Pierucci – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*