

Lifelines

May/June/July 2025

Lutherans For Life of Michigan 2025 Essay Contest Winners!



Foster Care: A Life Worth Living

By Sadie Silcox, Senior at Lutheran North in Macomb

1st Place High School

Psalm 139:13-14 states, “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” This bible verse emphasizes the essential value and uniqueness of every individual as seen through God's eyes. Foster care, a system designed to provide temporary homes for children who cannot live with their biological families, resonates deeply with the nature of this verse. The concept of fostering children can be viewed as an extension of God’s love and care for His creation, acknowledging the worth and dignity of each child.

This act of love has been demonstrated in my home from a very young age. When I was just 7 years old my parents chose to be foster parents and daily affirmed the importance of not only my life but of others in our community.

Psalm 139:13-14 reminds us that each child is “fearfully and wonderfully made” by God. This understanding is crucial for foster parents, as it calls them to recognize the divine craftsmanship in every child, despite their difficult pasts. It is a call to look beyond the behaviors and challenges that these children may exhibit and to see the inherent beauty and potential within them. Foster Care, therefore, becomes a ministry of presence and patience, where God’s love is demonstrated through the daily interactions and nurturing provided by the foster family.

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Knowing that each child is “knit together” by God reassures foster parents that they are partnering with the Creator in His redemptive work. This partnership involves not only providing for the physical needs of the children but also tending to their emotional and spiritual well-being.

Furthermore, the verse magnifies the importance of identity and self-worth. Many children struggle with feelings of abandonment and low self-esteem. By embracing the truth that they are “wonderfully made,” foster parents can help these children develop a positive sense of self. This affirmation of their value can have a transformative impact, empowering them to overcome their past and envision a hopeful future, knowing they were created for a purpose.

In conclusion, foster care is a profound expression of God’s love and care for His children. Inspired by Psalm 139:13-14, it calls us to recognize the divine worth in every child and to respond with compassion and dedication. Foster parents, through their selfless service, become vessels of God’s grace, affirming the identity and value of the children in their care. As a community, we are called to support and uplift foster families, ensuring that every child experiences the truth that they are *(continued on 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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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!

We will print your names along with the
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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

(Essay Contest Winners, continued from p.1)

“fearfully and wonderfully made.”

Today that little baby my parents fostered when I was just seven years old, I proudly call brother. When he was two years old my parents adopted him into our family. He is now 11 and most certainly is “fearfully and wonderfully made.” I am so happy his biological mother knew his life was worth living. My family and I are forever changed due to Psalm 139:13-14. His works are worth celebrating!

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2nd Place High School

The Effects of Abortion on Mental Health

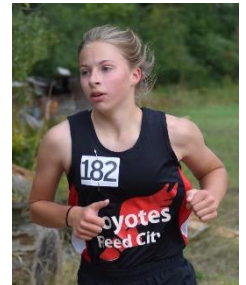
By Fiona Rohde, Freshman from Trinity Lutheran Church in Reed City

Most sanctity of life essays highlight the importance of the unborn child, and rightly so, but there is another human involved in an abortion. The mother is also fearfully and wonderfully made, and an abortion can have adverse effects on her as well. Mental and physical health are both deeply affected by the act of abortion, but most women are told that there are no adverse effects for the mother.

Pro-abortion advocates often say that childbirth is four times more dangerous than an abortion. Data sets in Finland show the opposite, that abortion is four times more dangerous than childbirth. The pro abortion advocates also have been pushing the abortion pill, saying that it is even safer than surgical abortion. The abortion pill was responsible for 63% of the abortions in 2023. The same data sets from Finland show that the abortion pill is four times more dangerous than surgical abortion. (Clark 11:39-11:40, 14:40-15:36)

Mental health is important. Although moms have been told that abortion does not affect their mental health, science says otherwise. The most common pro-abortion book to cite is “The Safety and Quality of Abortion Care in the United States”. This book includes only 4 pages on the correlation of abortion and mental health. Between 1993 and 2018, 75 peer-reviewed studies on this subject were performed. Of the 75, 50 determined an association between abortion and future mental health issues. “The Safety and Quality of Abortion Care in the United States” cited only 7 of the 75 total studies. All 7 were from the 25 that did not determine an association between abortion and mental health. 5 of the 7 studies cited came from the Turnaway Study. (Clark 24:52-24:53, 25:17-26:23)

The Turnaway Study is a study commonly cited by pro abortion advocates. Its premise is that women who try to secure abortions but fail or are turned away have worse mental health in the future. The problem is, when they tried to



recruit people, only 37% of people approached agreed. During the study, 44% of the 37% who agreed to the study dropped out. The study was published with 17% of the total number of participants they needed to (*continued on p.5*) **(Essays, continued from p.4)** make the study successful at the start. 5 years later, they went to the participants, and 95% of the women who did not secure abortions were grateful that they did not abort their child (Clark 26:24-28:40). For these reasons, the Turnaway Study is not a reliable source.

One other study on this topic was conducted by Priscilla Coleman with the British Journal of Psychiatry. Priscilla Coleman took a meta-analysis of 22 studies, 36 measures of effect, and 877,181 participants. She found that women who received an abortion received an 81% increased risk of mental health in the future, and almost 10% of the people who had mental health problems had an abortion as their only risk factor. (Coleman sec. 3-4)

There is much more evidence for a connection between adverse mental health conditions and abortion, more than could fit in this essay, but not many people know about it. "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." - Psalm 139:13-14. We need to inform women about this fact, and that they too are affected by the action of intentionally killing an innocent, unborn child.

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1st Place Elementary School

A Good Death in Christ

By Christiana Klamer, 7th Grade from St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fowler

The word euthanasia comes from the Greek roots *eu* and *thanatos*; *eu* meaning good, and *thanatos* meaning death. The word itself implies that euthanasia is a good death. The practice of euthanasia, however, is not good. Euthanasia is the purposeful killing of people who wish to have a peaceful death instead of risking a painful death. This may sound like a better alternative, but it directly contradicts God's Law: "You shall not murder" (Exodus 20:13). With or without consent, euthanasia is murder.



A part of euthanasia that appeals to some people is the ability to control when they die. Having control over a stressful situation can potentially relieve the worry. Unfortunately, they do not realize that the time of death is God's choice only. As we read in 1 Samuel, "The Lord kills and brings to life" (1 Samuel 2:6). Because God gave us life, He has control over death. God knows our time of death; it is not our decision.

Euthanasia is remarkably similar to putting pets to sleep. When a pet gets miserable near the end of its life, the owner may choose to put it to sleep. Similarly, when a person nears death or is in pain, they may seek to have their life ended. God gave mankind dominion over animals, which we read about in Genesis, "And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth" (Genesis 1:26). This dominion includes the authority to humanely end an animal's life. We do not however have the authority to kill people in this respect. The act of euthanasia is treating a valuable life as that of an animal. Only God has such authority, because He is the Creator of all life.

Even though it may be difficult, in death we are guaranteed comfort; as sung in a beloved hymn, “in death thy comfort still afford” (LSB 708). Since God is present with people from their conception, surely He will *(continued on p.6)* **(Essays, continued from p.5)** be with them in death. “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” (Psalm 139:13-14). With God by our side, we need not fear death. He will not forsake us. Because God created us, we are fearfully and wonderfully made. This is truly good!

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2nd Place Elementary School

I Just Want A Family Who Loves Me

By Calah Keup, 8th Grade from Trinity Lutheran Church in Reed City



I want to be loved...I just want to have a family. When the youth at Eagle Village were asked what they wanted for Christmas, phrases similar to these were sprinkled across the page of the Eagle Village Christmas Letter. Eagle Village is a facility that protects, educates, and gives love and emotional therapy to abused, neglected, orphaned, and emotionally unstable kids and teens before they are adopted or are able to return to their families. The Eagle Village staff believe that protecting children and properly educating them is an important daily goal with every student in their care. They teach them about Christ’s love.

To share Christ’s love, every year for Valentine’s Day, my sister, and I, along with a few friends, pack goody bags for the Eagle Village residents. This year, a resident told an Eagle Village staff member that she was excited for tomorrow. When asked why, she replied that every year she had been there, she had gotten a goody bag for Valentine’s Day. This remark showed me how something so simple could make such a difference in one child’s life.

I personally know kids who are adopted. They attend our Lutheran school, which provides good role models and people who care about them. They know that they are loved, and not just by their adopted family, but by others, and most importantly, by God. Psalm 139:13-14 says, “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” (ESV). This verse shows God’s love of everyone, including an abandoned or orphaned child because He has created them. If a child does not have a family, he or she might not feel like they are anybody; as though they are not worth anything to anyone. Adoption shows these kids that they *are* cared about. Everyone has value, especially in the eyes of their loving Creator.

When I grow up, I hope to adopt children of my own. I want to teach, love, and tell them that God loves them and that they are fearfully and wonderfully made. Adoption is a beautiful thing, and through it, God shows kids that He is caring for them, and that they are not alone.

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<[Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.](#)>

<<https://www.biblegateway.com>>

President's Column

By Pastor Paul Clark

It has been said, *"You never know where you are going until you have been there."* Sometimes, the path of life takes a startling turn.

The frightened young woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant knows that. The husband or wife who endures increasing strain and struggle in looking after a spouse with dementia knows that. A person who has just received a terminal cancer diagnosis knows that.

Peter knew that, too. He thought he would just spend an ordinary night doing his usual work as a fisherman. But though they fished all night long, they caught nothing. It was at daybreak that things took a very unexpected turn.

The resurrected Jesus called to them from the shore.

At first, they didn't even recognize Him. Only when Jesus tells them to cast their nets to the right side of the boat, followed by pulling in the net full of fish, do they realize who it is.

"It is the Lord!" - John says to Peter in great joy as typically impulsive Peter plunges into the water and swims quickly to shore, leaving the other disciples to drag in the heavy load of fish – 153 in all.

And then, *what does Jesus do?* He sits and eats with them.

Jesus is with us still. He has given us His promise. He will abide with us always – *in His Word, in Holy Baptism, and in the Holy Supper.* Thus, we know that our risen Lord is always present – with His abundant grace and mercy.

And so, our life finds its meaning in Him. Our path is directed by Him. Our future is secure in Him. Though life may take a very unexpected turn, whether with a pregnancy, an illness, depression, or sudden loss, there is hope, there is peace, and there is comfort in the compassion and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us.

It is only the BLOOD OF THE LAMB that can take away the sin of the world. Whether the sin of aborting one's child, or the sin of remaining silent and not speaking on behalf of our unborn children; whether the sin of neglecting an ageing parent, or even - *God forbid* - encouraging them to consider physician-assisted suicide as a way out; or the sin of apathy toward the gross evil and immorality in the world – turn to Jesus! There is forgiveness to be found for every sin, but it is only found in Jesus. Only in that holy blood, shed for us on the cross, do we find the antidote for the poison of sin. **AND NOW CHRIST IS RISEN.** He is *for* us, and He is *with* us, exactly where He promised to be, in His Church through His Word and Sacraments.

The Lord, who rose from the tomb, having conquered death and hell, is now with us always. That is the blessed message of EASTER!

In Australia, on the tomb of the Lutheran theologian Hermann Sasse are engraved these words in Latin:

"Tuis Fidelibus, Domine, Vita Mutator, Non Tollitur."

That means *"To Your Faithful, O Lord, Life Is Changed, Not Taken Away."*

(continued on p.7)

(continued from p.6)

Your life is changed now in Christ. *No matter what you have done, or where you have been, in Christ, your life is changed.* The risen Jesus intercepts you on our journey. In the waters of Holy Baptism, He splashed you with His saving blood. You are given new life. When you die, death will not take that life away. The grave will not hold you. Your body will be *raised*. It will be *changed*. It will be *glorified*.

Thus, we pray: *Dear Lord, calm our anxious fears. Soothe our weary spirits. Heal the guilt and shame of those whose lives have been marred by the darkness of abortion. Unite us in joyfully defending life, including the unborn child, the frightened woman, the depressed and suicidal soul, the sick and suffering, and those who may be at life's end. Grant us compassion. Grant us the joy of Your salvation. Defend us from all fear, as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, until that blessed Day when we reach the shore of the fresh new land beyond, where we will celebrate that Feast which never ends.*

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

News from Loving Arms, Macomb County Chapter 94 of LFL

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

Lauren Schaidt, the Vice President of Lutherans For Life of Michigan and the Editor of *Lifelines*, was honored in March by the Council of Lutheran Women, representing St. Luke Lutheran Church in Clinton Township.

We, too, honor Lauren as a wonderful servant of the Lord. God has used a variety of people and experiences to shape Lauren to be such a servant. She has a supportive family and friends. Her studies at Concordia University Wisconsin in Theology and Spanish broadened her knowledge. While there she was exposed to a foreign culture when she studied in Chile. She is blessed to teach teenagers at Lutheran High School North where she has taught both Spanish and New Testament. At her local church she is the leader of the Life Team, which holds annual events and other opportunities to learn about Life Issues and how to love our neighbors as gospel-motivated voices For Life. (For more information on how to form a Life Team at your congregation, visit <https://lutheransforlife.org/frontlines/life-teams>.) Lauren authored the 2023 July devotions in Portals of Prayer. We praise God for His guidance in Lauren's life.

The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing love (Psalm 33:18).

The Editor would like to thank the members of Loving Arms for their personal support and partnership with local congregations and with Lutherans For Life of Michigan in upholding the value of human life.

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 schaidtl@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!

In HIS Image: Navigating Christian Sexuality in a Post-Christian Culture

Presented by *Doxology: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel* and hosted by the St. Luke Life Team.

Saturday, September 27, 2025 9:00am-4:00pm

St. Luke Lutheran Church
21400 S. Nunneley Rd.
Clinton Twp., MI 48035

Join us for a day of pastoral and psychological information and insight on the challenging topic of sexuality and gender issues. Learn how we can stand on the truth of God's good design of humanity and show love to our neighbors who struggle with these issues. The day's presentations are Christian Worldview and Sexuality, Caring for the Child who Identifies as Transgender, Light in the Darkness: Christian Responses to Conflict in a Sexually Toxic Culture, and GPS Essentials for Traveling through Difficult Conversations.

Our presenters will be Rev. David Fleming, Executive Director of Spiritual Care for Doxology and Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids, MI

and

Dr. Beverly Yahnke, Executive Director for Christian Counsel for Doxology and Clinical Psychologist.

The event is free. Please RSVP to Lauren (schaidtl@gmail.com or 586-214-3116).



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!

Please stay tuned for more details later in 2025! (from <https://rtl.org/event/michigan-march-for-life>)

This event is sponsored by Right to Life of Michigan and the March for Life.

2025 Lutherans For Life National Conference

**Fearfully
and
Wonderfully
Made**



Save the Date! Join Us in 2025!

September 24-26, 2025

Great Wolf Lodge • Colorado Springs, Colorado

Get equipped to deal with life issues with Gospel-motivated speakers at the Great Wolf Lodge in Colorado Springs for this three-day national event! The sweeping views of Pike's Peak in the conference center will inspire us as we hear testimonials from courageous For Life speakers. This family-friendly venue offers the largest indoor water park in Colorado, along with dozens of engaging activities for children of all ages.

Registration includes access to all conference sessions and breakfast and dinners at the conference hotel. **Note: Lunches and afternoons will be on your own to explore the area!**

Registration Fees:

- Early Bird – Adult (through June 30, 2025): \$100
- Adult (July 1, 2025, and after): \$150
- Students and Youth, 13 years old through college-age: \$25
- Children, 12 years old and under: FREE



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

lutheransforlife.org/conferences

What's Happening in Michigan?

2025 Life Summit

The Noble Quest: Defending Life in the Trenches



On April 27th many voices For Life gathered at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fowler for the annual Life Summit. That morning the congregation was blessed to hear a sermon from the Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer, professor at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, and a Sunday school lesson (pictured left) from Michelle Bauman, the Director of Y4Life at Lutherans For Life.

Pastor Paul Clark (pictured second from left), Pastor at St. Paul and President of Lutherans For Life of Michigan, opened the Summit with an encouraging presentation on the challenges and need of speaking up For Life. He explained that it is indeed a battle to be fought together with courage and love.

Dr. Scaer (pictured second from right) discussed the spiritual battle at the root of the culture's views on life issues. He explained that Satan looks at you and sees the face of Jesus and hates it. So he tries to undo all the good that God has created – including the good of male and female, marriage, children, and even truth itself. He echoed Pastor Clark's thesis that it is a battle and added, "Telling the truth is a revolutionary act." He called us to speak up on these topics to protect others, as we are called not to be ashamed but to be honest and courageous in a world attacked by lies. As he encouraged us in this endeavor at the end, "The Lord has never lied to you, and the world has never died for you."

Michelle Bauman (pictured left) spoke on how we can care for others struggling with various life issues. We all face challenging life issues, whether abortion, disability, sexuality or gender confusion, end of life decisions, or others. We all also can care for others in these situations as we seek to uphold life with gospel-motivated voices. She discussed three types of evidence we can bring to conversations: Scriptural, scientific, and philosophical. She began with the Scriptural basis that all humans are *created* and *redeemed* and God desires to *call* all to faith in Jesus unto salvation. She beautifully explained that, in His love for humanity, God has given the Ten Commandments to protect the gifts He has for us because He wants us to have life and community. Finally, she provided two acronyms for how we can communicate about life issues: SLED and CALVARY. For an explanation of those and to hear all three presentations, visit the Lutherans For Life of Michigan Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/lflmi>)!

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.

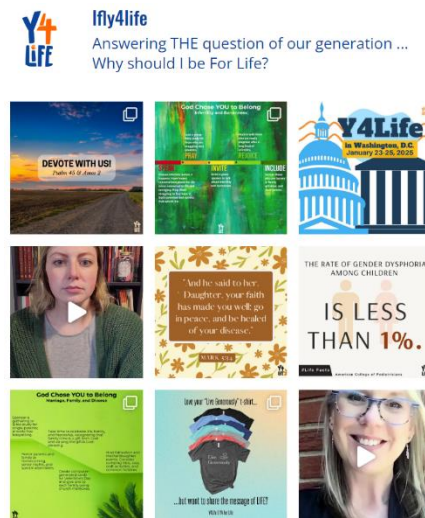


Designed for youth in grades three through eight, the goal of **Y4Life, Jr.** is to help youth recognize their inherent value in Christ and equip them to be Gospel-motivated voices 4 Life. Resources with the Y4Life, Jr. logo will equip **elementary and middle school youth** to locate their identity in 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



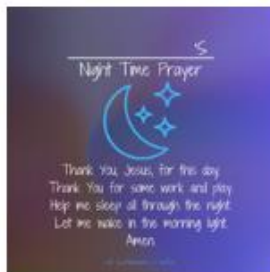
Lil' Lutherans 4 Life "I Can Come to Jesus" Series
\$1.50



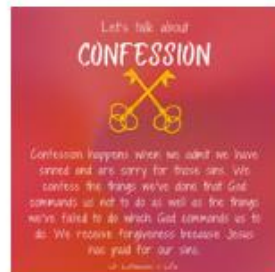
Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Advent Series
\$1.50



Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Morning Prayers
\$1.50



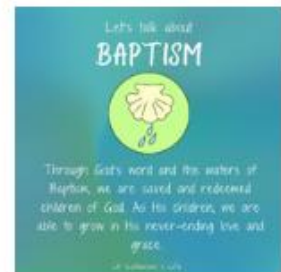
Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Night Prayers
\$1.50



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



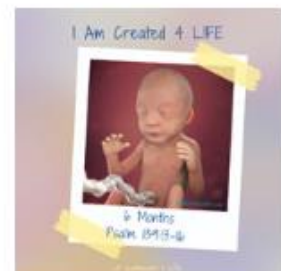
Lil' Lutherans 4 Life – Let's Talk About Grace
\$1.50



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/>):

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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:

Name _____

Address: _____

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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

Diaper Drive Results

Upcoming Events

And More!

Quotes

“Live abundantly, friends, graduates, loved ones, and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ! Know who you are and to whom you belong.” *Deaconess Janet Nicol, Word of Hope – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

“We are blessed because Jesus has come to us, God most high become a human baby. We are blessed because God has kept His promise to redeem us, even at the cost of His own suffering, death, and resurrection. And we are blessed because the Holy Spirit has given us faith in His good promises.” *Lutheran Hour Ministries Daily Devotion – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

“Friend, you have a good word to speak to your neighbor. You have God’s Word of life to share—with your spouse, your children or grandchildren, your co-worker or friend. You can tell them that their life is sacred, a gift of God, and that their life matters to you.” *Rev. Robert Mohns, Lutheran Church—Canada – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*