

# Lifelines

August September October 2022

## Roe v. Wade Overturned!

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

This date – June 24, 2022 – goes down as one of the momentous dates in history, as the U.S. Supreme Court issued its long-awaited ruling on the Dobbs Case, and in a 6-3 decision, has overturned one of the most infamous cases of all time – Roe v. Wade.

This is a day of joy and thanksgiving to our God. He has worked in the hearts of the majority of the Supreme Court justices to move them to do what is ethical and right – to state clearly that there is NO constitutional right to an abortion. The lives of unborn children matter!

Remember – abortion kills babies. And abortion – contrary to the lies – hurts women.

So, yes, the day has come! We have prayed and worked and yearned for this day. Our lips pour forth our Alleluias and our Te Deums, as we give honor and praise and glory to the Lord of Life – our Triune God.

It is significant that the decision was handed down on this day – which on our church year calendar – is the feast day for the Nativity of John the Baptist. Yes, the very one, who in the womb of his mother Elizabeth, leapt for joy in the presence of Baby Jesus in the womb of His mother, Mary. God’s timing is absolutely amazing.

So, Roe is no more. What does this mean?

This court decision does not make abortion illegal. It simply acknowledges that the “right” to an abortion was never in the Constitution and should never have been enshrined as a “right” by the Supreme Court in the first place.

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It returns the issue to the fifty states, and to the democratic and legislative process, putting it back in the hands of citizens and not in the hands of nine justices.

So, for us here in Michigan, the battle continues in a new way. We are in a good position. Our state already has a law on the books, that before Roe, banned abortions in Michigan. But our pro-abortion Governor has backed a lawsuit to stop this law from going back into effect. Until the court rules on this lawsuit, abortion will still be legal in Michigan. But we have good, solid people fighting against this lawsuit, and God-willing, our law protecting the unborn will soon be back into place.

In addition, Planned Parenthood – the nation’s largest abortion provider – has begun a petition drive to collect signatures to place the issue on the ballot. The goal of this lawsuit and this petition is the same – to make sure that abortions would continue to be allowed in Michigan for all nine months of pregnancy, with no restrictions whatsoever! Thanks be to God – we have many hard-working pro-life citizens right now who are battling this radical petition, and who are getting the word out, warning people not to sign it.

Make no mistake about it - this IS a great day – a day of rejoicing! But the battle continues in many ways, and we must not tire, or slack off in vigilance, until our state again becomes a place of safety for little baby girls and boys. God bless and keep you all – as you stand strong for the sanctity and dignity of all human life, born and unborn! “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” (Psalm 139:14)

ALLELUIA!

**The mission of LFL is to equip Lutherans 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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Website: [www.lflmi.org](http://www.lflmi.org)

## **THANK YOU...**

*Lutherans For Life, Nevada, IA*

*Terry & Pauline Boyd, Vassar, MI*

*Mari Crandell, Ypsilanti, MI*

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*Our Savior Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MI*

*Marvin & Patricia Warnez, Shelby Twp., MI*  
*In memory of Connie Davis*  
*In memory of Harold Reh*

*Rev. Jim & Susan Hill, Mt. Clemens, MI*

*Rev. E. Paul & Peggy Burow, Macomb, MI*  
*In memory of Connie Davis*

*Eugene Morabito, Ann Arbor, MI*

*Janet Shanahan, Mundelein, IL*  
*In memory of Connie Davis*

*Dolores Gintz, St. Ignace, MI*  
*In memory of Connie Davis*

*Lorraine Rosso, Chesterfield, MI*  
*In memory of Connie Davis*

*Andy & Sue Eskelinen, Moran, MI*  
*In memory of Connie Davis*

*Don & Sue Bowden, Ray Twp., MI*  
*In memory of Connie Davis*

*Bob & Lynn Christian, Mt. Clemens, MI*  
*In memory of Connie Davis*

*Will & Anne Ebel, Mt. Clemens, MI*  
*In memory of Connie Davis*

*Ron & Linda Krueger, Clay, MI*  
*In memory of Connie Davis*

*Kelly Chirco & Family, Washington Twp., MI*  
*In memory of Connie Davis*

*Mark & Linda Schwark, Washington Twp., MI*  
*In memory of Connie Davis*

## THANK YOU... (continued from p.2)

*Earl & Jo Anne Iseler, Byron Center, MI  
In memory of Connie Davis*

*Gary & Jean Peters, Interlochen, MI  
In memory of Connie Davis*

*Rev. Timothy & Betty Loewe, Temperance, MI*

*Vernon & Marion Muehl, Warren, MI  
In memory of Connie Davis*

*Andrew & Jennifer Carr, Sterling Heights, MI  
In memory of Connie Davis*

*Alexis Ladson, Macomb, MI  
In memory of Connie Davis*

*James & Elizabeth Eggert, Holt, MI  
In memory of Connie Davis*

*Byron & Donna Zuehlk, Washington Twp., MI  
In memory of Connie Davis*

*Lucille Schilling, Fraser, MI  
In memory of Connie Davis*

*Warren & Lynette Kindt, Gainsville, GA  
In memory of Connie Davis*

*Anonymous via Visa Cash Back*

*Ruth Tafel, Alto, MI  
In memory of Hannelore Mussehl*

*Becky Martin, Midland, MI  
In memory of Connie Davis*

*Kate Martin, Midland, MI  
In memory of Connie Davis*

*Mt. Hope Lutheran Church, Grayling, MI*

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Walled Lake, MI*

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

### **“Resolution 1-17 – That the Michigan District Respond to the Reversal of Roe v. Wade with Gospel Understanding and Care**

**To respond to the Dobbs v. Jackson Supreme Court with rejoicing, but more importantly asking the congregations of the Michigan District to fill the Gospel need of providing support for crisis pregnancy centers, encouraging members to consider foster parenting and adoption options, and supporting many pro-life ministries in the district.”**

(Pictured below is the standing ovation at the Michigan District Convention when the above resolution was read. Submitted by Jennifer Connelly.)



### **Pregnancy Resource Centers in Michigan**

There are more than 150 locations in Michigan that offer pregnancy and adoption help services. Use our online map below to find a location near you. Help center listings include addresses, phone numbers and web sites.

(From [www.rtl.org/pregnancy-help](http://www.rtl.org/pregnancy-help))

## Urgent Legislative Report: **PLEASE READ!**

(Editor's Note: The sections in bold below are the exact text of the proposed amendment. If the Bureau of Elections approves the petition signatures, then this Michigan Constitutional Amendment will be on the ballot in November. Lutherans For Life of Michigan strongly urges you to **vote NO** on this amendment and spread the word!)

On July 11, at 10 AM, the Reproductive Freedom for All coalition or as we know them by, the anything-goes abortion coalition, submitted over 750,000 signatures to the Bureau of Elections for approval. We know this is a large number of signatures considering they only needed 425,059 valid signatures to qualify for the November ballot. We are relying on the Bureau of Elections to adequately check the submitted signatures for fraud and invalid signatures.

For now, we are consulting with our legal team to weigh our options and determine the best course of action in regard to legally challenging the signatures. ([supportmiwomenandchildren.org](http://supportmiwomenandchildren.org))

### **Reproductive Freedom for All Amendment Text**

**(1) Every individual has a fundamental right to reproductive freedom, which entails the right to make and effectuate decisions about all matters relating to pregnancy, including but not limited to prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, sterilization, abortion care, miscarriage management, and infertility care.**

The amendment specifically says it will impact ALL matters relating to pregnancy, and lists several examples. While sounding very tame—who would disagree that a mother should be able to make a birth plan?—these words have extremely far-reaching consequences. Though not included in the list, “sex” is obviously related to pregnancy. Individual is not defined as to age, meaning the provisions in this amendment could apply to children as well as adults.

**An individual's right to reproductive freedom shall not be denied, burdened, nor infringed upon unless justified by a compelling state interest achieved by the least restrictive means.**

This is the same basic legal standard as the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act. However, on the federal level, a “compelling state interest”—something government must do to fulfill their basic duties and purpose—is general and interpreted by judges. This amendment specifically defines a compelling state interest below, severely restricting any possible law or regulation.

**Notwithstanding the above, the state may regulate the provision of abortion care after fetal viability, provided that in no circumstance shall the state prohibit an abortion that, in the professional judgment of an attending health care professional is medically indicated to protect the life or physical or mental health of the pregnant individual.**

This confusing language appears to allow late-term abortion bans, but by introducing a “mental health” exception, it would allow late-term abortions for practically any reason. Notice that it does not mention doctors, but “health care professional.” For example, a dentist could approve a late-term abortion on mental health grounds—and even perform one with no consequence, as you will see below.

**(2) The state shall not discriminate in the protection or enforcement of this fundamental right.**

This is incredibly vague. What does “discrimination” mean, exactly? Age discrimination is a real thing, so does this mean everything in the amendment applies to children? Rights are typically things that protect you from government prosecution, but this amendment says this right must be enforced by state—enforced against who? Parents? Doctors and nurses? A “right” is not supposed to give some people the ability to hijack a constitution and the government to gain control over other people.

**(3) The state shall not penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against an individual based on their actual, potential, perceived, or alleged pregnancy outcomes, including but not limited to miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion.**

This section could stop investigations of infanticides. For example, if someone gives birth and then abandons the baby in the trash, the state can't even investigate the situation because investigation is an “adverse action” against a “perceived pregnancy outcome.” Back when abortion was illegal in Michigan, women were not investigated for miscarriages, but infanticides do occur today and any such “alleged pregnancy outcome” absolutely should be investigated and prosecuted if proven in a court of law. People don't have a right to kill a newborn baby, but this amendment could give them one, and make the state enforce it.

**Nor shall the state penalize, prosecute, or otherwise take adverse action against someone for aiding or assisting a pregnant individual in exercising their right to reproductive freedom with their voluntary consent.**

This could stop the state from even investigating someone who assists with an abortion. A school counselor could take a 13-year-old girl to get an abortion without telling her parents, and there is nothing her parents could legally do—if they ever find out. An untrained employee at an abortion facility could perform an abortion, and health and safety regulators could be powerless to address it.

**(4) For the purposes of this section:**

**A state interest is “compelling” only if it is for the limited purpose of protecting the health of an individual seeking care, consistent with accepted clinical standards of practice and evidence-based medicine, and does not infringe on that individual’s autonomous decision-making.**

This section is the key to invalidating so many laws. Any existing law related to pregnancy, sex, abortion, sterilization, etc. has to overcome three separate obstacles.

First, the law can only be for the purpose of protecting “health,” which is not defined. So, for example, Michigan’s law which stops taxpayers from paying for abortions could be repealed, since the law is about protecting conscience rights. If a nurse doesn’t want to be forced to help perform a late-term abortion, their legal rights will not be respected.

Second, the law must agree with “accepted clinical standards of practice.” Who writes those for abortion procedures?

The abortion businesses themselves. For example, they say screening women for coercion to prevent forced abortions isn’t “evidence-based,” so our state’s law requiring screening for forced abortions could be repealed and sex traffickers, abusive spouses, and incestuous relatives will be able to cover-up their crimes. Abortion businesses object to health inspections and safety regulations that other outpatient facilities are required to follow, so no health or safety regulations could survive. Waiting periods, requiring abortionists to give women the ability to see the ultrasound of her baby, informed consent before surgery: none of these laws will be accepted as clinical standards by abortion clinics. This gives abortion businesses ultimate control over state laws, not voters or their elected officials.

Third, and this is VERY IMPORTANT, no law on anything related to pregnancy can infringe on a person’s “autonomous decision making.” Well, every law infringes on someone’s decisions; a law preventing a restaurant from serving you raw meat infected with salmonella is infringing on their decision to serve it and your decision to buy it. Most people agree your county health department has a compelling state interest in stopping people from dying by food poisoning.

This means that the amendment makes consent the only legal limit. If someone convinces a child to be sterilized, the parents have no say. This applies to anything related to pregnancy. Laws preventing adults from having sex with children could be impacted, since sex is related to pregnancy and it never defines individuals as adults. If a brother and sister want to have a child together, this amendment gives them an absolute right to do that. It doesn’t matter if the amendment authors didn’t intend to throw into question laws against statutory rape or incest, what matters is the confusing text of the amendment they wrote.

This one sentence in the amendment could have far-reaching effects for things beyond abortion or sex that aren’t immediately obvious. For example, our state’s ban on human cloning could no longer be enforceable, since cloning oneself is an autonomous pregnancy decision. Buying and selling babies through commercialized surrogacy could be legalized, and any health or safety regulation of the fertility industry could be impossible. If a mother wants to use her son’s sperm in IVF, the state not only can’t intervene, but must enforce her “right” against an IVF clinic doctor who objects to this unethical situation.

**“Fetal viability” means: the point in pregnancy when, in the professional judgment of an attending health care professional and based on the particular facts of the case, there is a significant likelihood of the fetus’s sustained survival outside the uterus without the application of extraordinary medical measures.**

Fetal viability is defined as the point a child can survive outside the womb. The amendment changes this definition, so that any newborn with a significant illness or disability could be defined as a non-viable child. For example, an incubator in a neonatal intensive care unit is an extraordinary medical measure. Any “health care professional” could make this medical determination, not just doctors. If the woman and her health care professional decide to leave a disabled child to die, the state could not even be allowed to investigate this “alleged pregnancy outcome.”

**(5) This section shall be self-executing. Any provision of this section held invalid shall be severable from the remaining portions of this section. ([supportmiwomenandchildren.org](http://supportmiwomenandchildren.org))**

## Remembering Connie Davis

God gives us many wonderful gifts in our lives. Connie Davis was certainly one of them. When I first joined the Board of LFL-MI as Pastoral Counselor, she was extremely encouraging and supportive. It was always, and I mean always, a pleasure to work with her. Her pro-life convictions and fervor were clearly manifest for all to see. She was loving and kind, and a dear friend, not only to me, but also to my wife and children. A gift indeed! She is missed. But she is enjoying a splendor that we still yearn to see. We continue to keep her dear husband, Terry, and all of her family in our prayers. We look forward to the great Day of Reunion and Rejoicing in Glory! Alleluia!

- Pastor Paul Clark, President of LFL of MI

*“so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.” (Colossians 1:10-12)*

Connie personified all these aspects of a fruitful Christian life. She loved first the Lord, then her family. Her loving nature extended to her friends also and to her dedication to Lutherans For Life. Shortly after my husband Jim’s ordination, Connie called me to invite me to join Lutherans For Life of Michigan as Urban Outreach Coordinator. She expressed great concern for the prevalence of abortion in the city. Watching Connie present chapel messages to children of all ages on the value of human life using a set of fetal models, I saw her patience, knowledge, and care in action. The children appreciated her loving manner. Connie and I also attended and brought exhibits to many LFL conferences. She was unfailingly kind, empathetic, and wise. She taught by example. What a blessing!

- Susan Hill, Urban Outreach Coordinator of LFL of MI



Connie and her husband Terry are pictured in the center with Pastor Paul Clark and his wife Liz.

Connie served as President of Lutherans For Life of Michigan for more than 20 years.

I met Connie at a Lutherans For Life conference several years ago. As I walked into the event, she was the first person I saw and it seemed as if she was waiting for me to arrive -- her smile was so welcoming and she was so kind. She showed me around making sure I felt comfortable there and even invited me to join her at lunch. After that meeting, we would talk on the phone about life issues and I would see her at LFL conferences and other church events. Connie eventually brought me onto the LFL-MI board in 2017. Connie's hospitable nature and solid witness for the sanctity of human life has been a blessing to many. She will be missed.

- Jennifer Connelly, Secretary of LFL of MI

Those of us who had the distinct privilege of working with Connie Davis at Lutherans For Life will never forget the incredible witness she provided through her work with us. Then she became an even stronger witness For Life after she got the news of her illness. There were tearful moments, such as her last retreat with LFL as she gave up her position as Michigan Federation President. It was a job she loved doing and her heart was fully in it. We all shed tears that day but somehow knew she wasn't done. She made certain her shoes were filled and the work in Michigan continued.

I followed her steadfast march through the many ups and downs of her cancer. We shared her stories of her faithful journey at our weekly staff meetings as she always shared love for the Lord and how she found joy and comfort in the many Bible verses she posted. She was always in our prayers, and it brought comfort knowing her faith was leading her to the ultimate day when the Lord decided it was time. We often hear of people's walk in faith and the words "good and faithful servant" truly describe their life. Those words have a special meaning with Connie as when she stepped aside from her work at LFL she took on a new role, perhaps an even more important role, of witnessing how God is totally in charge of our lives. As He carried Connie through her trials, He clearly used her as His faithful servant to share His Word and lift others up with the hope of the eternal relationship to which we are all called through our baptism. Connie didn't waiver in her calling. She provided that important witness, to which those of us who followed her walk will attest. Her messages provided uplifting hope in our merciful God. Her life touched many other lives and her calling in her final journey surely had purpose in God's plan. Although we miss Connie, we will never forget this amazing faithful servant.

- Virginia J. Flo, Volunteer Relations Director, Lutherans For Life

*Connie Davis*

*Our Dear Friend For Life*

*November 18, 1947 – May 13, 2022*

*Join us in remembering Connie by praising God through her funeral readings:*

*Psalm 23*

*Psalm 139:13-16*

*3 John 1:4*

*Revelation 21:1-7*

*Confirmation Verse: Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. Revelation 2:10*

## The 2022 Life Issues Elementary Essay 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner!

### *Adoption is a Gift from God*

By Lana O'Farrell, 8<sup>th</sup> Grader at Our Savior Lutheran School in Hartland, MI

God builds families and gives the blessing of children through birth and also through adoption. When adoption is embraced, God is blessing many [Ps. 4:1-2]. Every child that ever was or will be was created on purpose *for* a purpose. God already has amazing plans for their life, no matter whether they are raised in a biological family or an adopted family. Consider adoption examples in the Bible. How their life began does not determine what will happen later on.

Pharaoh's daughter adopted Moses who then grew up to lead God's people into the promised land (Exodus). Queen Esther was adopted by her cousin Mordecai who grew up and saved the line of David (Esther). Joseph adopted Jesus who is the Savior of the world (Matthew). Then God adopted us through His Son Jesus dying on a cross. God saw our value for His kingdom and adopted us to be His children. I believe every child deserves a chance to live a life full of love, joy, and security that can only be found in a family.

Statistics show that one in twenty-five U.S. families with children has an adopted child. Being adopted from the adoptee's point of view can be looked at in many different ways. It can either make the child feel out of place or it can make them feel chosen, selected, out of love by their non-biological parents. Psalm 41:2 says, "The LORD protects and preserves them— they are counted among the blessed in the land— he does not give them over to the desire of their foes."

I was adopted at age two. If I was adopted by another family, I might not have believed all that I believe now as a Christian. But now I know I am protected, preserved, and counted as blessed. I was placed with this family on purpose, *for* a purpose. I will not be given over to the desires of the devil who did not want me to be raised by a Christian family. I believe adoption is the best option for a child that can't be cared for by a biological parent because it gives them a chance to live their lives and play out God's plan for them. Everyone has a right to the best life possible no matter how their life began.



Lana and Pastor Christopher Thoma, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Hartland (photo submitted by Shirley Sturkin)

## The 2022 Life Issues Elementary Essay 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner!

### *Abortion: Why It Is Against God's Plan*

By Lilli VanVleet, 8<sup>th</sup> Grader at Our Savior Lutheran School in Lansing, MI

Would you destroy a one-of-a-kind plant or the last kind of a plant? Of course, not! We would try to save and conserve it. This is the same with human life, no matter what stage in development it is. Abortion should be illegal because God cares for and creates each one of us.

All humans are God's creation, even the smallest, so God would not want us to destroy human life. The Bible tells us this in Psalm 41:2, "... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies." God protects His creations for a reason because He loves and cares for them. Abortion is murdering a life that God seeks to protect. So, why should we, humans, destroy this life that is a wonderful gift to us? We shouldn't. In fact, we should cherish and love this gift that our loving God has gifted us.

Another reason why abortion should be outlawed is that God creates and knows each and every one of us before we even know Him. The Bible clearly states in Job 31:15, "Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?" Many other verses, like Psalm 139:13-16, mention how God knits us together in our mother's womb. What an awesome idea that is! That God takes His time to get to know and create everyone on this Earth. Abortion gets rid of God's work that He is doing to make another human in His image. Abortion kills a life that God has a plan for, a being that He truly loves. Someone who was not junk but was made by God. Something that reminds me of this is a phrase my Pastor says, "God doesn't make junk."

Overall, abortion is clearly not a Christian belief because it gets rid of a creation and the gift of a life from our heavenly Father. We should consider life as a gift from our God, and keep in mind that God knits everyone in their mother's womb and has a wonderful life planned for them. In conclusion, abortion is unacceptable to God and needs to be stopped.

***Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's life issues essay contest!***

***Watch for information on next year's contest soon!***

#### **NEW: Lutherans For Life App!**

Find motivation. Get education. Take action.

Engage with a nationwide network of voices proclaiming the sanctity of life and putting it into practice. Discover upcoming events in your community and across the country. Explore life issues like surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis with a constantly-updated archive of articles, podcasts, videos, and other resources.

Reflect on the how God's grace in the Holy Scriptures and Lutheran doctrine brings hope and gives joy to difficult situations. Share comfort and encouragement with your social networks. Connect with [Life Teams](#), [Life Chapters](#), and [State Federations](#) making a difference in your area.

Locate and communicate with other life-minded individuals. Participate in the [Y4Life](#) program for students and youth. Access [Word of Hope](#), the 24-7 confidential crisis care and post-abortion healing ministry.

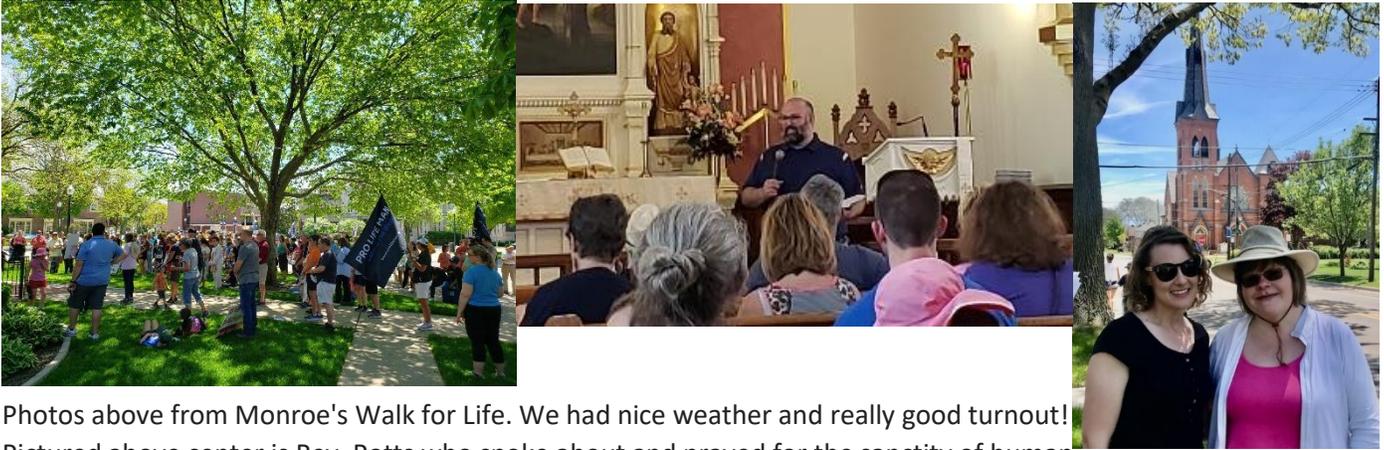
Celebrate how God creates, redeems, and calls every human life as His own precious treasure from fertilization to forever.

Use the Lutherans For Life app to become a Gospel-motivated voice For Life!

<https://lutheransforlife.org/lfl-app>

**How?** Just go to any app store and search for Lutherans For Life.

# What's Happening in Michigan?



Photos above from Monroe's Walk for Life. We had nice weather and really good turnout! Pictured above center is Rev. Potts who spoke about and prayed for the sanctity of human life. Pictured above right are Kara Dowler, CEO of Selah's Center of Hope maternity home in Monroe and Jennifer Connelly. (submitted by Jennifer Connelly)



Selah's Center of Hope celebrated their volunteers at a prayer breakfast and informational meeting held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Monroe (pictured above). Pastor Bob Auxter from Grace Lutheran Church in Monroe spoke and led us in prayer. Pictured above with Pastor is Selah's CEO, Kara Dowler. (submitted by Jennifer Connelly)



Pictured left is Vicar Sergio Vargas at the Lutherans For Life of Michigan table at the North & East Pastors Conference, May 9 - 11 in Lewiston, MI.



Pictured right are Life Team members of Our Savior Lutheran Church,

Grand Rapids at the Grand Rapids Pregnancy Resource Center Life Walk on June 18. In the front left is Carla Niemeier, Life Team leader, back left is Kim Meyers. They served as crossing guards for the Life Walk. Jo Anne and Earl Iseler are on the right side, they participated in the Life Walk. (submitted by Earl Iseler)

# The Annual Diaper Drive

The following **congregations** reported that they collected a total of **17,057 diapers** and *generous donations of other baby items and cash!*

Grace Lutheran Church, Monroe

St. John Lutheran Church, Rochester

Trinity Lutheran Church, Wyandotte

St. John Lutheran Church, Au Gres

St. James Lutheran Church, Montague

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fowler

St. Luke Lutheran Church, Clinton Twp.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Washington Twp.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids

St. Michael Lutheran Church, Richville

Christ the King Lutheran, Southgate

They were donated to these **pregnancy centers:**

Heartbeat of Monroe

Crossroads Center, Auburn Hills

Lincoln Park Pregnancy Center

Au Gres Closet Exchange

Muskegon Pregnancy Services

Pregnancy Services of Greater Lansing

Compassion Pregnancy Center, Clinton Twp.

CareNet, Detroit

Grand Rapids Pregnancy Resource Center

Life Clinic Community Resources, Bay City

Thank You!



(photos from Dale Griffith, St. John, Rochester; Christie Wilczynski, Trinity, Wyandotte; Mandi Wesley, Our Redeemer, Washington Twp.; Earl Iseler, Our Savior, Grand Rapids; Diane Stresman, St. Michael, Richville)

## 2022 LUTHERANS FOR LIFE NATIONAL CONFERENCE – BLESSED FOR LIFE

Blessed with the gift of life. Blessed by God for one's entire life. Blessed to be a blessing to others. Lutherans For Life national and regional conferences allow our team to come directly to you with the For Life Gospel message. These gatherings are wonderful times spent together where we can provide valuable information and encouragement to you, your community, and the life-affirming work you are engaged in.

**2022 Lutherans For Life National Conference**  
**October 21-22 | All day Friday until Saturday at noon.**  
**Rock Island, Illinois (Quad Cities)**

### Speakers

Melissa Ohden | Jeanne Mancini | Steve Deace

### Workshop Leaders

Rev. B. Keith Haney | Father Frank Pavone | Rev. Fred Hinz  
Col. John Eidsmoe | Rev. Dr. Wade Mobley | Deaconess Pam Nielsen  
Dr. Roni Grad | Dr. Kim Marxhausen | Deaconess Tiffany Manor  
Rev. Michael Salemink | Rev. Scott Licht | Michelle Bauman  
Virginia Flo | Deaconess Chrissie Gillett | Dr. Gregory P. Selz, PhD

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



**Blessed For Life**

"... the Lord protects him and keeps him  
alive; he is called blessed in the land;  
you do not give him up to the will of his  
enemies." Psalm 41:2

### **You can attend the conference for free!**

Lutherans For Life of Michigan is offering to pay the registration fee for attendees from Michigan on a first come first served basis.

For more information, please contact Earl Iseler:

(616) 485-9589 or [iselerea@comast.net](mailto:iselerea@comast.net)

# Y4Life

Why are Youth For Life?

Everyone high school or college age is invited to find out and learn how to support the value of all human life in words and actions.

## Find us here:

**Youth4Life Podcast:** [www.y4life.org/youth4life-podcast/](http://www.y4life.org/youth4life-podcast/) or your favorite podcast platform

**Snapchat and Instagram:** Search for “LifeFacts” and “LifeSnaps” OR “LFL4LIFE” (but all lowercase)

**YouTube Videos of Past Live Zoom Sessions:** [www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife/videos](http://www.youtube.com/user/LutheransForLife/videos)

**Chats4Life:** Join us two nights a month to learn about various life topics, exchange ideas with Y4Life teams, engage with guest speakers, and meet life leaders from across the nation. Contact Michelle Bauman for the Zoom login and password at [mbauman@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:mbauman@lutheransforlife.org) or send her a message through Y4Life’s social media platforms on Instagram or Snapchat.

**What About...Mondays?** Do you have a burning question or real-life situation that involves a life issue? Do you need advice as to how to speak from a Gospel-motivated perspective in an angry, anti-life world? If so, then What about . . . Mondays? is for you! Every second Monday of the month, students gather together on Zoom to talk about life issues they’d like to address. Based on youth questions and interests, Michelle Bauman and other members from LFL’s national staff help youth find a 4 Life answer to the problems the world tries to solve with death. Through practice and conversation, youth learn to address life issues from a Gospel-motivated perspective and share that perspective and hope with others.

Contact [mbauman@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:mbauman@lutheransforlife.org) for more information!

**Website:** [www.y4life.org](http://www.y4life.org)



**Y4LIFE** seeks to equip high-school- and college-aged youth to be Gospel-motivated voices 4 Life, publicly and privately 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!

([www.y4life.org/about/](http://www.y4life.org/about/))

Groups and individuals welcome to all events

**Learn, ask, discuss, serve, love – For Life**

*Join us!*

Contact Michelle Bauman (Director of Y4Life) for more information: [mbauman@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:mbauman@lutheransforlife.org)  
(information from [www.y4life.org](http://www.y4life.org))

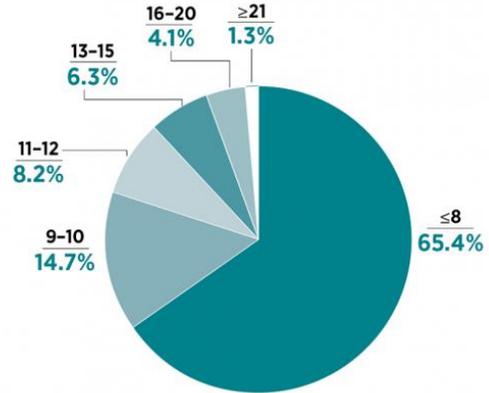
## Abortion by the Numbers Nationally

Information from [www.guttmacher.org](http://www.guttmacher.org), a pro-abortion research institute

- 862,320 – number of abortions (in 2017)
- 24% - percent of women who have an abortion by age 45
- 12% - percent of women who have an abortion who are adolescents
- 38% - percent of women who have an abortion of no religious affiliation
- 17% - mainline Protestant
- 13% - evangelical Protestant
- 24% - Catholic
- 8% - other religious affiliation
- 75% - low-income
- 51% - were using a contraceptive method when they became pregnant
- 39% - percent of abortions done by medication

### WHEN WOMEN HAVE ABORTIONS

**In 2016, two-thirds of abortions occurred at eight weeks of pregnancy or earlier, and 88% occurred in the first 12 weeks.**



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

## Abortion by the Numbers in Michigan

### MICHIGAN 2020 ABORTION STATISTICS

#### OVERVIEW

**29,669**  
abortions reported in Michigan in 2020. Down 39.6% overall from 1987. Increased 8.5% in 2020, likely due to the pandemic. 1,621 out-of-state residents had abortions in Michigan.

#### TEEN ABORTIONS

**-81%**  
Abortions on minor teens down 81% from 1990.

#### FREQUENCY

**48.8%**  
were repeat abortions.

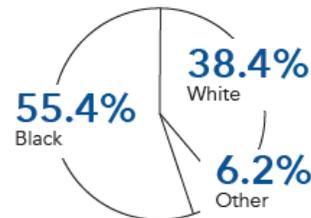
#### LATE TERM

**349**  
abortions were performed after 20 weeks of gestation.

#### ABORTION PILL

**51.9%**  
For the first time ever, a majority of abortions were performed using the abortion pill method.

#### DEMOGRAPHICS



#### AGING DEMOGRAPHICS

**63%**  
of abortions were performed on women ages 25 and over in 2020, compared to 37.7% in 1987.

Graphic from [www.rtl.org](http://www.rtl.org) (Right to Life of Michigan)

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Speaking the Truth in Love: Life Issues of Manhood, Womanhood, and Vocation**

Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am to 12:00pm

St. Luke Lutheran Church in Clinton Twp., MI

Speaker: Michelle Bauman (Director of Y4Life at Lutherans For Life)

Please join us for this educational and practical event on how to put a “truth in love” (Eph. 4:15) mindset into action when speaking about life issues!

No cost. Light breakfast provided. Free will offering will be to defray expenses. Please RSVP to Lauren at [schaidtl@gmail.com](mailto:schaidtl@gmail.com) or (586)214-3116 by Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Grandparents’ Day is Sunday, September 11, 2022!**

This is a day we can especially celebrate our grandparents and elderly friends and uphold the great value of their lives! You are encouraged to celebrate Grandparents’ Day in your congregation or with family and friends.

To our older family and friends, *Thank you* for your love, dedication, and wisdom. Thank you for being examples for the rest of us to look up to. We praise God for the blessing you are in every age, stage, and situation. We love you!

“Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.” (Isaiah 46:4)

### **All District Pastors Conference**

October 9 – 12  
Boyne Falls, MI

## Donations to National Lutherans For Life

The "I WANT TO SPEAK FOR LIFE" form provided is 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.

## Donations to Lutherans For Life of Michigan

We praise and thank the Lord of life for all of your generous donations!

Donations may be made to **Lutherans For Life of Michigan** through a secure giving portal at our website, [www.lflmi.org](http://www.lflmi.org). On the Home page click on DONATE. Please wait a few seconds and the Giving Portal will be displayed. Click on "Choose a Fund." Select "Donate" to make a general gift, "Honorarium" to give a gift in honor of someone, or "Memorial" to give a gift in memory of someone. If you choose Honorarium or Memorial, please enter the name or names of the person or persons being honored or memorialized in the 2nd box. Enter the amount you are giving, your credit card or bank account information and submit your donation. If you would like to have notification of a memorial or honorarium sent to someone, please email the name(s) and address to: [lflmi.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:lflmi.treasurer@gmail.com).

If you prefer to send a check, please use the enclosed remittance envelope or address your own envelope to send your donations to:

**Lutherans For Life of Michigan Treasurer**  
**C/O Earl Iseler**  
**7455 Navajo Valley Dr SW**  
**Byron Center, MI 49315-8271**

Donations sent to our president, Pastor Paul Clark, or any previous address need to be forwarded to me for deposit. This only delays processing your donation and requires another person to mail the donation to me.

Donations sent to my previous address will no longer be forwarded, they will be returned to the sender. Please discard all remittance envelopes with the Rockford address.

In the interest of reducing our cost, remittance envelopes only have the treasurer's address printed on the outside.

When making a general donation, you may just put a check in the envelope and write your return address on it. If the name or names and address on the check are correct, no other information is required. If not, please provide the name or names 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.

---

### Memorials or Honorary Gifts

The enclosed gift is in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

The enclosed gift is in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please send notification of this gift to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Name/# (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Church Body (Synod) AALC \_\_\_ AFLC \_\_\_ CLBA \_\_\_ ELCA \_\_\_ LCMS \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and send to: Lutherans For Life, 1101 - 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Nevada, IA 50201-1816  
1-888-364-LIFE \* (515) 382-3020 \* E-mail: [info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org) \*  
WebSite: [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

**Check Out These Easy Ways to Give!**

Lutherans For Life of Michigan receives a percentage of your purchase when you shop!

Amazon Smile and choose us as your charity! For details, go to

<http://smile.amazon.com/about>.

Kroger and sign up to have us connected to your Kroger Plus Card as your charity! For

details, go to <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/>

**Word of Hope**

LFL's Post Abortion Healing Ministry

We can help, contact us at:

1-888-217-8679

[www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)

[help@word-of-hope.org](mailto:help@word-of-hope.org)

**Lutherans For Life of Michigan**  
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## In the Next Issue...

2023 Essay Contest Information

Legislative Report

Post-Roe Efforts

What's Happening...in Michigan

Upcoming Events

And More!

## Quotes

For we have, and always will have, the high ground. We find it just outside the walls of Jerusalem, the place of the skull, Golgotha. There we saw a life-giving death. And nearby in an empty tomb we saw death giving way to life, new life now, resurrected life forever. From this high ground comes the message we proclaim throughout the land. This high ground moves us to boldness in defending all life and showing compassion to all struggling with life....

I have been humbled and proud to serve with so many For Life heroes over the years. It was an honor to receive a standing "O" on your behalf. It's okay for all of us to receive some acknowledgement once in a while. You deserve it. So, listen to the standing "O," LFL-ers. Take a little bow, enjoy it . . . . . Okay, long enough! Now back to serving the Lord of Life with Gospel-motivated voices and actions louder and more compassionate than ever.

*Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life, upon the overturn of Roe v. Wade, from Lutherans For Life*