

Lifelines

August/September/October 2025

We Welcome the New Executive Director of *Lutherans For Life*!

(Below is from *Lutherans For Life* via email)

Lutherans For Life is delighted to announce that Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske has accepted divine call to serve as the next Executive Director of Lutherans For Life!

Dr. Fenske began his duties with LFL on May 1. On accepting the call, Dr. Fenske said, "I pray that God will strengthen and equip me to serve faithfully for the benefit of His Church."

The Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske is a 2011 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Since that time, he has served as the pastor of two dual parishes in the North Wisconsin District – LCMS, where he has been active in several different pro-life organizations. Dr. Fenske earned his Doctor of Ministry in 2019, again from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. He and his wife, Marie, have four daughters—Madison, Alexis, Hailee, and Marta—along with two grandsons, James and Rustyn.

Please pray for Dr. Fenske, his family, and the Lutherans For Life community that our Father would bless this time of transition, and our Savior would continue to abundantly provide for the needs of His people at Dr. Fenske's present congregations.



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With Thanksgiving for a Decade of Service, We Pray for Former Executive Director Rev. Michael Salemink in His New Call!

(Below is from CTSFW Communications via email)

FORT WAYNE, May 29, 2025—Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), is pleased to announce that the Rev. Michael Salemink has accepted a call to serve as Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions....

Salemink, who earned his Master of Divinity from CTSFW in 2003, comes to the seminary from Lutherans for Life, where he has served as executive director since 2015. In that role, Salemink gave educational presentations at conferences and in congregations and schools, produced articles, devotions, Bible studies, sermons, podcasts, and vlogs for social media, worked with volunteers, donors, and organizations on life causes, and provided pastoral counsel to individuals and families experiencing life issues. Prior to his work with Lutherans for Life, Salemink served as associate pastor of St. James Lutheran Church and School in Lafayette, Indiana (2005–2015) and pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Webster, Minnesota (2003–2005). He is presently finishing a PhD at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

"Rev. Salemink will bring a wonderful blend of pastoral and academic experiences to his teaching and mentoring of our students," said CTSFW Provost Dr. Charles Gieschen. "His bold and faithful leadership of Lutherans for Life has given him the opportunity to preach and teach in congregations across The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod."

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!

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

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

LFL's Post Abortion Healing Ministry

We can help, contact us at:

1-888-217-8679

www.word-of-hope.org

help@word-of-hope.org

President's Column

By Pastor Paul Clark

We don't always mean what we say, do we? Boldly saying something – even with the best intention - doesn't mean that it will happen. Many things are simply out of our reach. Life is not a Disney movie. Our dreams and wishes don't always come true. We make promises to God, to ourselves, and to others, including those most dear to us. All too often, those promises - like New Year's resolutions - are quickly broken. *Just saying something doesn't make it happen.*

George Bailey promised what he couldn't deliver. In his effort to secure the affection of his sweetheart, George – played by Jimmy Stewart in the film, *"It's a Wonderful Life"* - said, *"What is it you want, Mary? What do you want? You want the moon? Just say the word, and I'll throw a lasso around it and pull it down."*

That was a bit of an overreach. He couldn't do what he had promised. Even if Mary *did* say the word, George had no power to pull the moon down. *Just saying something doesn't make it happen.*

Except when it's Jesus who speaks.

One day a Roman centurion came to Jesus saying, *"Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly."* Jesus told the centurion, *"I will come and heal him."* But the centurion replied, *"Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, **BUT JUST SAY THE WORD**, and my servant will be healed."* (Matthew 8:5-8)

God's Word cannot fail. When it's *His Word*, that Word is *enough*. When it's *God speaking*, things happen. Storms cease. Demons flee. The blind see. The lame walk. The dead rise.

JUST SAY THE WORD, LORD! And it is done.

For broken people, living in a broken world, this is good news. For those whose dreams have been shattered, whose lives have been capsized, whose hearts have been nailed shut, like a coffin ready to be buried, this is good news. For those who have been seized and paralyzed by their fears and worries, this is the balm that brings healing to the wound. It is the rainbow after the storm. It is the celestial light that floods into the deep and dismal darkness of the wounded and anguished soul.

JUST SAY THE WORD, LORD! And it is done.

Your sins are forgiven. Your debt has been paid. Your future is secure. Your hope springs eternal.

A young woman panics at the results of a pregnancy test. *What will she do? How can she have this baby? How can she tell her parents? What will become of her life?*

But in her womb is a baby - *new life* – in all its mystery and wonder. Despite the circumstances that brought her to this point, that baby boy or girl is a *gift* from God. A gift should be treasured, not crushed or thrown out like trash.

Nevertheless, she is frightened. She is confused. But there is someone who can and will help her to walk this road. It is Jesus, who knows every thought, who perceives every doubt, who sees every need. He is there; He who loved us, who died for us, who rose to bring life to the lifeless. ***"JUST SAY THE WORD, LORD!"*** And He does.

"Peace I give to you!" (John 14:27)

"Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28)

"I will never leave you or forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

(continued p.4)

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

A man receives a phone call. It is his doctor. The test results have come in. The cancer is back. The fear mounts up once again. The future appears to be a journey into the unknown. The path ahead appears murky and dark, overshadowed by a thick and dark forest that seems to press down on him out with gnarly and malicious branches, blocking his every step, threatening to choke out his life. *How can he make his way? To whom can he turn for help? Where can he find peace? How can he find the strength to fight this seemingly endless battle?*

JUST SAY THE WORD, LORD! And it is done. ***"I have said these things to you that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*** (John 16:33)

A feeble and elderly woman loses her husband after many decades of life together. The landscape now looks bleak and bare. A pervading loneliness sets in. The serpentine road stretches out before her. The way is dark. It frightens her. *How can she possibly find the strength to carry on alone?*

"JUST SAY THE WORD, LORD!" And it is done. ***"The Lord is my strength and my shield."*** (Psalm 28:7). ***"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."*** (Philippians 4:13) ***"I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."*** (Isaiah 41:10)

Jesus delivers us through the power of His Word. He never fails.

In Texas, many mothers and fathers grieve over the loss of their children among the tragic flash flood that took the lives of so many. It is unimaginable, a horrifying nightmare that no parent wants to contemplate. *But the brutal reality here is that Jesus did not deliver those children from the perilous waters.* It was a Christian camp that was especially devastated. *That troubles us.* Even knowing that we live in a broken world, even knowing that Christians are not exempt from suffering – these things still shake us up and challenge our faith in God's goodness.

The fact is that life can be shattered in an instant. This world is rife with danger. But we do not succumb to fatalism. The Holy Spirit gives us ***the gift of faith in Christ***. Only *through faith* can we understand how God ***can*** and ***does*** deliver us – ***EVEN*** through the portal of physical death. ***Baptized into Christ, united with Him, confessing His holy name, we HAVE eternal life.*** As difficult as it may be to peer through the heavy shroud of darkness that so often envelops us, yet by God's grace we can look beyond the pain-filled horrors of this world, and we see the glory. However, to do so, we must look to the Cross. It is only in ***CHRIST CRUCIFIED*** that we perceive what we otherwise would not know – ***that God so loved the world that He gave us His Son.*** Jesus *does* rescue us. Through ***HIS*** bloody suffering and death, ***you are reconciled*** to the Father. Through ***HIS*** resurrection, you are given the assurance of ***your*** resurrection. Life *will* triumph over death. God keeps His Word.

George Bailey may not have been able to do what he had promised for his sweetheart, as we likewise often fail in our promises, but God always does what He has promised. He brings us safely through – *as the expression goes* – hell or high water. And He will bring us *home*. If God is ***FOR US***, who can be *against us*?

The Day will come! The sun will rise! Christ will return! Our bodies will be raised in glory. We will inherit a new earth. We will see all things *restored*. We will see ***Jesus***.

Life is precious. Every life. Each day is a gift. And for those who believe in Jesus, each day brings us ***a step closer to Paradise.***

JUST SAY THE WORD, LORD!

And it is DONE.

News from Loving Arms, Macomb County Chapter 94 of LFL

Karen Hoerauf, President

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Highlighting Former Loving Arms President Donna Zuehlk

By Jeannette Meyer



Which one of Jesus' disciples would you want to take out for lunch? I'm not sure about you, but Peter would top my list. I bet he would give me the REAL scoop on that amazing three-year ministry, told with humor, zest, and brutal honesty. And if I could go back in time, I'd shadow him, the "servant with spunk!"

Lutherans For Life here in Metro Detroit has been blessed with many servant leaders, but if you ever have an opportunity to take one out for lunch, may I suggest Donna Zuehlk? This faithful yet fearless, generous and persistent spunky servant will leave you pondering how, where and when YOU could step up and serve.

Donna and her beloved, Byron, have been in the thick of (real) LIFE issues for their entire 55 years together. After Byron's injuries in Vietnam left him a paraplegic, they married and adopted two children. Donna became involved in LFL's Loving Arms chapter as it was started in 1976 to address life issues post-Roe, and served in many capacities, including vice president and then president for over 15 years. She was known for using her voice (and her very capable pen) to address life issues in all of her vocations, from family to church to ministries such as Compassion Pregnancy Center and LFL. Many individuals in her life have been fearlessly challenged to follow Christ's directives through Donna's sometimes uncomfortable, but never boring words. Even today, Donna will not shy away from the difficult questions, whether in family gatherings (often asked with a twinkle in the eyes), Bible studies, in her pastor's office, or in her prayers.

Generosity has also been a hallmark of this family's existence. God has blessed them, and they, in turn, have blessed others. Ask anyone who has known them well, and the stories will start flowing. They have opened their home, given of their time and expertise, shared their possessions, and financially supported numerous individuals and institutions.

Donna's advice to anyone reading who wants to be a "Gospel-motivated voice for life" is to first take the time to educate yourself about the issues at hand, and second, stand up and speak out! If you asked her which current life issues she considers to be the most dangerous, she would urge you to learn about the dangers inherent in organ donation and physician-assisted suicide.

Thank you, Donna and Byron, for serving your Savior in so many ways. Thank you for reminding us not to shy away from difficult situations or subjects, but to speak the truth in love and remain faithful for as long as God gives us life and breath. I'll close with words from the afore-mentioned apostle Peter, who I believe would get along famously with my Aunt Donna. "The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies - in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:7-12 ESV)

Legislative Report

By Pastor Paul Clark

On June 13th, the House subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency (DOGE) sent a letter to Planned Parenthood requesting additional information on several of their policies, including information on late-term abortions, the harvesting and sale of fetal organs, and all non-public financial statements and documentation on standard informed consent for abortions. Planned Parenthood has not responded despite a deadline of June 27th.

On June 26th, the Supreme Court ruled in the case of Planned Parenthood vs Medina, where it found that the state of South Carolina did have the authority to specifically exclude Planned Parenthood from receiving Medicaid funds. Planned Parenthood had argued that the Medicaid Act created a private right for Medicaid recipients to select whatever provider they choose. However, the Supreme Court ruled that states do have the authority to exclude certain providers, opening the door for other states to begin explicitly excluding Planned Parenthood as an eligible Medicaid provider.

On July 4th, President Donald Trump signed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act into law. The bill passed the Senate on July 1st by a margin of 51-50, with Vice President JD Vance casting the tie-breaking vote. The House then ratified the Senate version of the bill on July 3rd. The law halts federal taxpayer dollars from funding Planned Parenthood and other Big Abortion providers for one year. (The original bill language blocked federal funding for 10 years, but a one-year moratorium is still a big success.) The law removes all government funding from Planned Parenthood and other major abortion providers for one year. The estimated amount of funding taken away from Planned Parenthood is roughly \$800 million. In response, Planned Parenthood filed a lawsuit against the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid on July 7th, claiming that the defunding is unconstitutional as a Bill of Attainder (political punishment) and violates the Equal Protection and First Amendment rights of the plaintiff. The Obama-appointed judge granted the injunction sought by Planned Parenthood on the same day as the lawsuit was filed, thus temporarily blocking the defunding of Planned Parenthood.

What's Happening in Michigan?



Earl Iseler represented Lutherans For Life of Michigan at our resource table at the Michigan District Convention in June (pictured left).

The Life Team at St. Luke in Clinton Twp. held its annual Spring movie event in May (pictured right). This year we watched a presentation by Rev. Michael Salemink on gender and sexuality and how we can communicate about these topics as gospel-motivated voices For Life. Find the video and many other LFL presentations here on the Lutherans For Life Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ot4A1va7RzY>



As we believe in supporting life from fertilization to forever, we wanted to do something to support the older persons on the life spectrum. We worked with our women's ministry group to create adult shirt protectors (bibs) to be available for any sewing volunteer to make the protectors. We had a wonderful soul, Linda Fix who completed a dozen protectors, and I delivered them to the Westwood assisted living facility. Pictured is myself (Carol Poterek, right) giving the protectors to one of the managers Marissa West (left). They were very appreciative of the donation. Our plan is to have this be an ongoing project and once we accumulate another dozen protectors, I'll contact another local facility to donate them to. (Submitted by Carol Poterek, Life Team at St. Peter in Macomb)

The Annual Diaper Drive

The following **congregations** reported that they collected a total of **66,560 diapers** along with *generous donations of other baby items and cash.*

St. James Lutheran Church, Montague
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Britton
St. Peter Lutheran Church, Eastpointe
Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hartland
St. Peter Lutheran Church, Macomb
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fowler
St. John Lutheran Church, Fraser
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids
St. Michael Lutheran Church, Richville
St. John Lutheran Church, Rochester
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Port Hope
Trinity Lutheran Church, Traverse City
Christ the King Lutheran Church, Southgate
St. Luke Lutheran Church, Clinton Twp.
Trinity Lutheran Church, Wyandotte
Grace Lutheran Church, Coopersville
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Washington Twp.
Zion Lutheran Church, Tawas
Faith Lutheran Church, Whitehall
Zion Lutheran Church, Holland
St. John Lutheran Church, Taylor
St. Luke Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor

Diapers and other donations were given to the following pregnancy centers:

Compassion Pregnancy Center, Clinton Twp.
Shared Pregnancy, Lansing
CareNet, Detroit
Crossroads Care Center, Auburn Hills
Lincoln Park Pregnancy Center
Harbor Lights Pregnancy Center, Tawas
Crisis Pregnancy of Adrian
Life Clinic Community Resources, Bay City
Muskegon Pregnancy Services
Pregnancy Help Clinic, Brighton
Abigayle Ministries, Sterling Heights
Pregnancy Resource Center, Grand Rapids
Positive Alternatives, Caro
Positive Alternatives Pregnancy Center, Bad Axe
Thrive Medical Clinic, Traverse City
Generations Ahead, Traverse City
Wee Care, Livonia
The Luke Clinic, Detroit
Family Life Services, Ypsilanti

Thank You!



(Photo left submitted by Laurie Bliese, Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hartland)



(Photo right submitted by Amanda Grafilo, St. Peter in Macomb)



(Photos left of the St. Paul in Fowler Playpen Project submitted by Pastor Paul Clark)



(Photo right submitted by Carla Niemeier, Our Savior in Grand Rapids)



Pictured above left to right are Jeff & Sondra Bolzman, Jan Roedel, Donna Bierlein, Elaine Keinath, Dianne Stresman, Kevin Sage (submitted by Dianne Stresman, St. Michael in Richville)



(Photo above submitted by Dale Griffith, St. John in Rochester)

Upcoming Events in Michigan

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
Sign-In Begins at 8:30am

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 register by **August 15th** at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/doxology-in-his-image-tickets-1388304318589?aff=oddtcreator> or by calling Lauren at 586-214-3116.

A similar event will be held on Saturday, November 1st at St. John Lutheran Church on Amelith Road in Bay City. To register for either location's event, please go to www.eventbrite.com, search "DOXOLOGY" and type "Michigan" in the location box.



Michigan March for Life 2025

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



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

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

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

Some of the Resources for Lil' Lutherans 4 Life

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



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



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



Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Advent Series
\$1.50



Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Morning Prayers
\$1.50



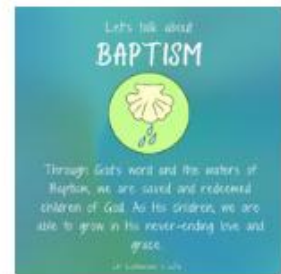
Lil' Lutherans 4 Life Night Prayers
\$1.50



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



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



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



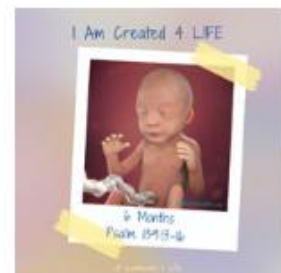
Lil' Lutherans 4 Life – Let's Talk About Grace
\$1.50



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



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



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

Some of the Resources for Y4Life

Find them at www.cph.org, search for “Y4Life”



Human Development Y4Life
Infographic Booklet Series
\$2.00



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



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



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



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



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



Foster Care (fold-out
brochure)
\$2.00



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



All resources are great for adults, too!

Frontline Playbooks

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

Frontline Playbook Series

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



BELONGING

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

Welcome to the Frontline Playbook!

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



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

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

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

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

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Verba Vitae



A Serious Christian Journal of Life
and its Significance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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: _____

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 _____

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 – 5th Street, Nevada, IA 50201-1816

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

Website: www.lutheransforlife.org

Lutherans For Life of Michigan
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Fowler, MI 48835

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And More!

Quotes

Public education is a public...benefit, and the government cannot "condition" its "availability" on parents' willingness to accept a burden on their religious exercise. (p.32-33 Opinion of the Court, June 27, 2025,
https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/24pdf/24-297_4f14.pdf)

"Difficult situations like surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis can tempt us to forget our Savior's presence and power. Comfort comes not from making deals with death but from the gifts He brings and the privileges He brings even in and through hardship. An everlasting, unchanging, and all-sufficient Creator and Keeper not only provides life, He protects it as well!" *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

"We shouldn't expect to know or understand the ways of God. We simply live in trust and ask God's blessing on our lives of sanctification, lived in love and thanksgiving to Christ." *Marie MacPherson, author – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*