

Lifelines

May, June, July 2021

The 2021 Life Issues High School Essay Winner!

***Human Purpose* by Grace Ricci Lutheran North High School**

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit," John 15:16. Every person's purpose is to love God, love others, and share the Gospel. Each human being is made in God's image, so he is precious. However, the world advertises a different message. People have become desensitized to murder. Through promotion of abortion and euthanasia, society has become convinced that outside circumstances minimize a person's value and purpose.

People have lessened the meaning of life's purpose by consciously murdering the most innocent form of human life, a child. Many of those who are in support of abortion claim that a fetus has no value since it is simply a clump of cells. However, there are significant contradictions in this argument. Are not humans who are alive today made of cells? A fetus also satisfies the seven characteristics of life: "order, sensitivity or response to the environment, reproduction, growth and development, regulation, homeostasis, and energy processing" (courses.lumenlearning.com). A cell is made of membrane bound organelles, grows into a zygote, and maintains a stable internal environment. A fetus also takes in energy from its mother's food. In addition to society's unwillingness to recognize a fetus as a form of life, it

Continue on page 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2-3 – Board Members, Thank You, First Place Elementary Life Essay Continued

4 – First Place HS Life Essay Continued

5 – President's Column

6 – Legislative Report

7- Life Summit, Fowler MI

8-9 – What's Happening...in Michigan?

10 – L4L New Websites

11,12,13 - How to Give and Upcoming Events

13 – In the Next Issue...Quotes

The 2021 Life Issues Elementary Essay Winner!

***Assisted Suicide* by Mason Terao Our Savior Lutheran Church & School**

Have you heard of assisted suicide? It is when someone who is suffering ends their life with the help of another individual. *Mercy killing*, *euthanasia*, and *physician- assisted death* are other common terms. Proponents prefer the term, "*death with dignity*," which has a more gentle and less disturbing ring to it. The truth is that assisted suicide is murder, according to God.

John 15:16 says, "You did not choose me; I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, fruit that will last..." This means that we are God's chosen ones. We should not ask others to end our lives before it is our time to die because we are extremely loved by Him. GOD CHOSE YOU!

Psalm 34:17-19 states, "When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the
Continue page 3

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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Life Sunday Observance*

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Coral Mason, Albion, MI

Norm & Diane Long, Grand Rapids, MI

(Thank You, continued from p.2)

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Joanne Bierwirth, Berkley, MI

Marv & Pat Warnez, Shelby Twp, MI
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Joanne Bierwirth, Berkley, MI

Assisted Suicide by Mason Terao Continued from page 1

brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all." When one is at the edge of their earthly death, a believer should cry out for help to their Savior! God promises to deliver us from our afflictions. That does not mean that the believer will not endure suffering. But He will help us through our worst times and will give us the strength and ability for it.

Exodus 20:13 states, "You shall not murder." Murder is the killing of a person by another. Assisted suicide kills the one who is suffering. Also, Martin Luther teaches us in the small Catechism, "We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need."

In conclusion, assisted suicide is against God's will. God chose us to bear fruit that will last. God promises to help us through our sufferings and He will be there for us in any condition. Finally, he specifically tells us not to harm others but to help them in their physical needs. When someone is suffering, tell them to look to God and talk to Him for comfort and show them the way. Assisted suicide is murder.

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For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:7-8).

Human Purpose by Grace Ricci Lutheran Continued from page 1

advocates for the woman's choice to rip apart her own child if she is not financially stable or ready to have a family, so that she can succeed in her work life and career goals. They dismiss the child's intrinsic value because of the mother's circumstances. Contrastingly, Scripture emphasizes that circumstances do not determine one's value, and no innocent human being can be murdered since he is made in the image of God. God "created my inmost being, He knit me together in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13-14). God commands each of His children to find Him in every situation. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." There is hope for every child to have a joyful life since Jesus conquered sin and death. Human life is sacred since each person is made in God's image. Clearly, society's advocacy for abortion blurs the true meaning of human life.

Euthanasia contributes to the ideology that each person should be able to determine when he dies, and this has corrupted the meaning of human purpose. "In the Netherlands, children as young as twelve, who are terminally ill, can request euthanasia, with parental consent" (mydeath-mydecision.org). Euthanasia is promoted as a treatment that saves human beings from suffering any difficult circumstance. People who request it believe that they would be better off as dust. Society paints a picture that it is not God's time to decide when people will die, but their own. Conversely, Scripture emphasizes that only God knows the hour of each person's death. Acts 1:7 says, "It is not for you to know times or dates the Father has set by his own authority." A person's disease does not lessen his value or purpose since Jesus already conquered their illness. Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world," (John 16:33). Jesus knows that His children will face challenges. However, He provides them with the gift of life because no matter how difficult their circumstances may be, when they turn to Him, they can have peace and find contentment in their souls. God can use someone who survived cancer to mentor those who are enduring chemotherapy. He can use a disabled veteran to preach his patriotism to future generations in America. Evidently, the world promotes the message that a person cannot have any hope if they are ill, depressed, or convinced that they would simply be better off dead. In Jesus, people can find purpose in their life in serving the Lord.

Circumstances do not lessen a person's value. Each child of God is meant to bear fruit. God designs every human being to spread the Gospel and love others. In time, society will hopefully understand the real meaning of human purpose.

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BibleGateway.com: Search for a Bible Passage in 71 Languages and 224 Versions., www.biblegateway.com/passage/

President's Column

By Rev. Paul Clark, President Lutherans For Life of Michigan

What a joy it was to gather with pro-life Christian sisters and brothers from around the state as we hosted the Life Summit at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fowler this past Sunday. Especially after this time of Covid lockdowns and uncertainties, it is important for us to gather and renew our battle for the lives of our unborn children. *Lutherans For Life of Michigan* continues to stand for the sanctity of human life for all – born and unborn, young and old, healthy, as well as the sick and dying. The Lord our God is ***the God of Life***. We thank Him for His marvelous gift.

In this Easter season of the Church Year, and in fact during all the days of the year, we thank God that our Lord Jesus is *alive*, risen from the grave, and that He *lives* and reigns to all eternity.

Because He lives, we will live also. ***Alleluia!***

As God's redeemed people, we love life, and desire to uphold and protect the value of life, because that life is a gift of God. Human life has *value*. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, so loved each of us, including that little unborn baby in the womb, that He gave His life for the sheep – *for us*. Jesus paid the price to redeem *us* from sin and death. He makes *us* His own through Baptism. He delivers *us* from darkness and transfers *us* into His kingdom of light.

Each and every little baby, from the time of conception, is a gift from God and should be protected by law. We will continue to stand for their right to love, to breathe, to come to the saving waters of Holy Baptism, to take their place in God's kingdom of grace and mercy, and one day to plant their feet in the Promised Land – the new heavens and new earth that God has promised us.

This is our charge! To stand beside those who cannot speak for themselves, and to speak for them.

This is a Gospel issue, for these are those for whom the Lord Jesus died, and they are those whom He loves. They have a right to be born, to be baptized, to live out the days on earth planned for them by the Lord of Life.

God's Word is very clear. We are *fearfully and wonderfully made*. Before we were born, God *knew* us. The *unborn John the Baptist* leaping with joy in Elizabeth's womb as her cousin Mary drew near with the baby Jesus in her womb demonstrates that – *born or unborn* – we are human beings. Human life is sacred. That is the foundation of our nation – with its emphasis on preserving "*the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness*."

So, yes, it was great to gather with God's dear saints at our *Life Summit*. Even if you could not attend, you can join us in our efforts. You can find ways to speak and give witness to the core value of the right to life. You can be a voice for the voiceless. Join us at *Lutherans For Life of Michigan*, and let us help you find ways to serve in your congregations and communities, so that together, we support the cause of Life, and continue to proclaim the Good News of the Lord of Life, who has sent His Son Jesus to die and rise again, so that we may have *LIFE* and have it *ABUNDANTLY*.

God grant this in Jesus! Amen!

Legislative Report

Submitted by Rev. Paul Clark, President Lutherans for Life of Michigan

On March 17, the US House voted to revive the Equal Rights Amendment which had been originally introduced in 1971 but which failed to get 38 states to ratify it prior to its expiration in 1982. The Senate would still need to approve the amendment, but it would likely be challenged as expired. This Amendment would be very dangerous for the Pro-Life movement.

Xavier Becerra was confirmed to the position of HHS secretary March 18. Becerra is the former AG for California who targeted David Daleiden for his undercover videos of Planned Parenthood.

On March 24, Rachel Levine was confirmed as the Assistant HHS secretary. Dr. Levine is an openly transgendered individual who believes children should be allowed to access “reproductive healthcare” without parental consent including gender reassignment surgery.

On April 9, President Biden appointed a presidential commission on Supreme Court reform. The purpose of the commission is to make a recommendation about adding justices to the Supreme Court, i.e. court packing.

On April 13, the 6th circuit upheld the Ohio non-discrimination Down’s Syndrome abortion ban creating a split circuit with the 7th circuit having deemed the Indiana Down’s ban unconstitutional a few years ago.

The Biden Administration, also, proposed a new rule to the Title X program which would overturn Trump’s Protect Life Rule which prevented money going to organizations who refer for abortions. The new rule would open the door for millions of tax dollars going to Planned Parenthood under the federal family planning program.

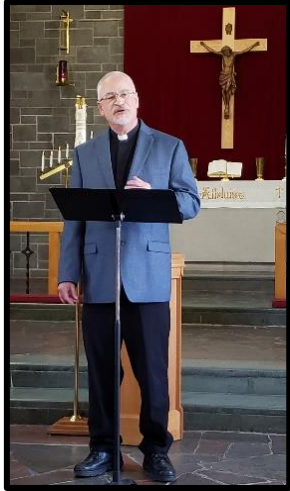
Also, on April 13, the FDA approved mail-order abortion pills during the Covid pandemic. Last July, a Maryland judge ruled that the Covid health risks created a constitutional burden to women seeking an abortion and, therefore, he deemed in-person dispensing of the abortion pill unconstitutional. In January, the Supreme Court ruled that the FDA could enforce the in-person dispensing rule. Now, with a change in leadership at the FDA, the administration has approved the mail-order provision during the pandemic.

What is happening...near you?

We would love to share photos of your events!

Please send photos along with the name of the church or group, city, event, and people pictured to schaidtl@gmail.com

Life Summit



Rev Clark – How to continue to Speak Boldly for Life



Rev Duncan- The Mission Remains - Go & Rescue Life

Lutherans For Life of Michigan and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fowler hosted a Life Summit on April 25th. Pastor Clark opened the seminar encouraging Lutherans to have the courage to speak boldly for Life and fight against the devil that wants us to be silent. Dr. Halvorson Smith recounted how she became a Pro-Life obstetrician/gynecologist and the obstacles she continues to face in her profession today. The key note speaker was Rev. Jeff Duncan, Director of Mission and Ministry Lutherans for Life. He spoke on societal changes but Lutherans have the voice of life itself that ushers us forth to proclaim Life in God's name. Lastly, a panel discussion was held by the speakers where a wide range of helpful tips to speak for life, questions, and concerns were voiced.



Dr. Halvorson Smith - A Pro-Life Doctor's Perspective



Approximately 75 attendees at the Summit



Nathan Beuschel, Rev. Clark & Earl Iseler manning the L4L Information Booth



Rev Duncan, Dr Halvorson Smith, Rev Clark answering questions during Discussion/Sharing Ideas Segment

What's Happening...

Michigan Right to Life March at the State Capitol, January 27



The crowd in front of the Capitol



Mike Shirkey MI Senate Majority Leader



Attendees included St Paul Lutheran Church Fowler and Our Savior Lutheran Churches from Grand Rapids and Hartland



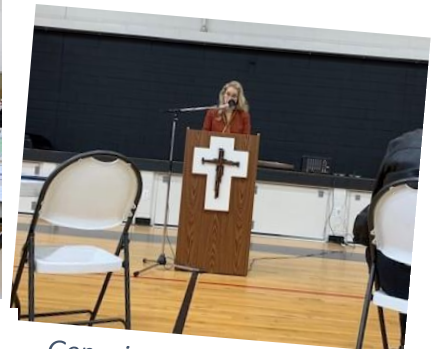
End of Life Seminar at Our Savior Lutheran Church Hartland, February 20



Our Savior Participants



Pastor Thoma speaks on the Funeral Service Preparation Process



Genevieve Marnon, Legislative Director for RTL Michigan, discusses futile care policies & legislation

...in Michigan?



40 Days for Life -Jericho March, Ann Arbor on Palm Sunday. Jennifer and Gary Connelly were among the 85 people who attended. Rev. Dr. Charles Schulz from Concordia University, Ann Arbor spoke an encouraging message Ride on! Hosanna! Blessed is He!



Dr. Schultz Concordia, Ann Arbor



Our Savior Hartland at Jericho March, Ann Arbor, Sunday March 21

Lutherans For Life – Check out their three new websites!



lutheransforlife.org



word-of-hope.org



y4life.org

(Taken from the Lutherans For Life Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/LutheransForLife/>)

Romans 8:28 reminds us, “that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.”

How to Give

Secure On-line Giving Through Kindred

Donations may be made to Lutherans For Life of Michigan through a secure giving portal at our website, 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 your credit card or bank account information and submit your donation.

Donations to Lutherans For Life of Michigan or to National Lutherans For Life

The enclosed remittance envelope is used to give a donation to Lutherans For Life of Michigan. The "I WANT TO SPEAK FOR LIFE" form provided is to give a donation to National Lutherans For Life in Nevada, IA. When using that form you need to provide your own envelope and address 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 full-time staff members but Lutherans For Life of Michigan has no paid staff. LFL sponsors conferences and develops resources to be used throughout the United States and other countries. LFL of MI provides educational information and sponsors conferences in Michigan churches, schools, and communities.

Michigan Lutherans for Life Treasurer Address Will Be Changing - Therefore, remittance envelopes are not included with this issue. Please stop using remittance envelopes with the 6833 Woodhills Dr NE address after June 30, 2021. Remittance envelopes with the new address will be provided in the next issue.

Upcoming Events

Annual Diaper Drive

When: Mother's Day – Father's Day (May 9th – June 20th)

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!



2021 LFL Regional Conferences – God Chose You

AUGUST 21 – Summerlin (Las Vegas), Nevada

OCTOBER 16 – Sioux Falls, South Dakota

NOVEMBER 13 – Conover, North Carolina

Watch for more details at lutheransforlife.org/conference!

Lutherans For Life

First Annual Walk 4 Life

Since 1979 Lutherans For Life has been equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

Join the **Step Up 4 Life** campaign and make a difference by helping to raise awareness and funds 4 Life in this new and exiting way.



Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life

Step Up 4 Life runs from May 8 thru July 5. You pick the times you choose to participate. Make this your personal march for life as you walk, run, roll, stroll, wash the car, vacuum and even rock in your favorite chair. **Check out the fitness conversion chart** on the website to convert your activities to steps.

On or after May 8, go to lutheransforlife.org/stepup4life and register to join. After paying a one-time \$25 fee you are set to go. *(Check out the family, team and student discounts).* Connect your personal tracking devices or manually record your activities. You'll be counting steps toward raising awareness and funds for LFL, especially when you involve others. **You can even share your participation on social media and invite others to sponsor you.**

As you work toward your goals you will be helping LFL reach its \$30,000 fund-raising goal. More importantly, you'll be raising awareness and funds For Life.

There is no registration fee for sponsors. If walking and rolling aren't for you, don't worry. Become a sponsor and supporter through your prayers, encouragement and donations. You can give online at the website listed above or send your contributions to:

Lutherans For Life
1101 5th Street
Nevada, IA 50201-1816

(Please add "Step Up 4 Life" in the memo line of your check)

Want to increase awareness as you Step-Up 4 Life? Consider purchasing and wearing a Step Up 4 Life t-shirt while supplies last. T-shirts are only \$12.00 for S-XL and \$14.00 for 2XL-3XL including shipping and handling! Order yours today at the same website as above! Plan ahead, allow two weeks for delivery.



This is the t-shirt design

I WANT TO SPEAK OUT FOR LIFE!

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

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

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

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

Name _____

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City, State, Zip _____ Phone # _____

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Congregation _____

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WebSite: www.lutheransforlife.org

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

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<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

help@word-of-hope.org

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In the Next Issue...

Information on the 2021 LFL Regional
Conferences

Legislative Report

What's Happening...in Michigan

Upcoming Events

And More!

Quotes

“Little though you can see it now, God intends to do wonderful things with you. If He is taking it slowly, that’s no surprise; He did it the first time, too. Nothing the devil can do will stop the Lord from finishing His work in you. After all, He has already laid down His life to make you His own.” *Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

“You, too, are one of the people Jesus came to rescue. You are one that He loves enough to suffer and even die for. His intention is to give you life—everlasting life—just as He has risen from the dead and will never die again. He is your king, and He wants you in God’s kingdom.” *Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*