

# Lifelines

August/September/October 2023

## The 2023 Lutherans For Life of Michigan Essay Contest Winners!

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Madison Ford from St. Lorenz Lutheran School, Frankenmuth**  
***Physician-Assisted Suicide: Killing the Living***

“In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind” - Job 12:10 (ESV Bible Gateway). Some people do not live by this Bible verse. Many believe that ending their lives before they die a natural death that God would want is fine. Physician-assisted suicide is the voluntary termination of someone’s life by lethal substances given by a physician (Morrow). It is vital to be informed about why PAS is a problem, why it happens so often, and what Christians can do to help the situation.

PAS should be stopped because of the problems it causes. Firstly, the act of PAS is a sin because it devalues human life which is a gift from God. As Ephesians 2:10 says, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” PAS puts those who are handicapped, elderly, and mentally ill in a vulnerable

**WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT MADISON HAS ALSO WON 2ND PLACE IN THE NATIONAL LUTHERANS FOR LIFE ESSAY CONTEST!**



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- 2 - Board Members, Thank You
- 3 – Essay Winners (cont.)
- 4-5 – Michigan March For Life
- 6-7 – 2024 Essay Contest
- 8 – Macomb Chapter Column
- 9 – Spotlight on Life
- 10-11 – What’s Happening?
- 12 – Diaper Drive Report
- 13 - Spotlight on a Life Team
- 14-15 – Upcoming Events
- 16-17 How to Give
- 18– In the Next Issue, Quotes

position (Smith). Finally, the biggest problem caused by PAS is that once this option becomes available to more people, doctors will not be able to stop the spread of suicides this way (Allen).

In order to understand why PAS exists, it is important to learn why people choose this option. Thousands choose PAS because of mental illnesses such as post-traumatic stress disorder and depression (Smith). When someone is diagnosed with a life-ending disease, such as cancer, they might choose PAS because they do not want to suffer. To stop PAS people need to be educated on how to help those who may suffer from illnesses or disorders.

As Christians, it is essential to know how to help stop PAS cases. An important way to help people is to provide hope to those who have been diagnosed with a life-threatening disease because many times doctors are wrong about how long someone will live (WebMD). For example, my aunt had blood cancer and lived for seven years longer than the doctors had predicted. Instead of choosing PAS, she had the opportunity to live the rest of her life to the fullest.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a says, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die” (ESV Bible Gateway). PAS is not the way God would plan for lives to end so in order to stop PAS, learning about why it is a problem, why people choose it, and how to prevent it is crucial. God is the ultimate Creator and it is vital as Christians to take action and follow His command.

**(see p. 3 for the LFLMI 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Essay!)**

**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.

### **LFL-MI BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **President, Legislative Reporter, & Spiritual Counselor:**

Pastor Paul Clark (517) 420-4826

#### **Vice President:**

Lauren Schaidt (586) 214-3116

#### **Secretary:**

Jennifer Connelly (734) 731-1609

#### **Treasurer:**

Earl Iseler (616) 485-9589

#### **Lutheran Schools Outreach:**

Chris Schultz (734) 770-7699

#### **Urban Outreach:**

Susan Hill (586) 468-7871

#### **Technology Coordinator:**

Nathan Beuschel (269) 945-7863

#### ***Lifelines* Newsletter Editor and**

#### **Essay Contest Coordinator:**

Lauren Schaidt (586) 214-3116

#### **Medical Consultant:**

Dr. Donna Harrison (202) 230-0997

#### **Members at Large:**

Liz Clark

Brendan McMahon

**Lifelines of Michigan LFL** is mailed free of charge to Michigan LFL supporters. Articles may be reprinted with attribution to source.

Email address: [lflmi.president@gmail.com](mailto:lflmi.president@gmail.com)

Website: [www.lflmi.org](http://www.lflmi.org)

### **THANK YOU...**

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

*Anna Quast, Eastpointe, MI*

*Mount Hope Lutheran Church, Grayling, MI*

*Rev. Frank & Jeanette Pies, Hartland, MI*

*Rev. Chris Vossler, Sanford, MI*

*Ruth Germeroth, Canton, MI*

*In Memory of her sister Connie Davis at the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of her passing to eternal life*

*Laura Zeile, Ferndale, MI*

*In Memory of Kimberly Ann Wetzel-Smith*

*Natalie Beyer, Bay City, MI*

*Stan & Deb Yetzke, Allendale, MI*

*In Memory of Emma Gerlach & Lois Yetzke*

*Edward & Shirley Mantay, Clinton Twp., MI*  
*In Honor of Norman Corfis on his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday*

*Bill & Carolyn Burns, Portage, MI*

*William Stiefel Sr. Family, Holt, MI*

*In Memory of William Stiefel Sr.*

*Brian & Tania Rentz, Grand Rapids, MI*

*Amazon Smile*

*Norm & Diane Long, Grand Rapids, MI*

*Dennis & Karen Ring, Grawn, MI*

*In Honor of Jack Ring*

*Gary Peters, Interlochen, MI*

*In Honor of his wife Jean for her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday*

*David & Lori Stolzenfeld, Macomb, MI*

*Our Savior Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MI*

*Pastor Paul Clark, Fowler, MI*

*St. Peter Lutheran Church Board of Education, Eastpointe, MI*

*Dick Williams Gun Shop, Inc., Saginaw, MI*

*Mary K. Fuhlbrigge, Monroe, MI*

*Chris & Lori Weber, Fowler, MI*

*In Memory of Ellie Mason*

*Marguerite Dewitt, Harrison, MI*

*Larry Henn, Okemos, MI*

## *The 2023 Lutherans For Life of Michigan Essay Contest Winners! (continued from p.1)*

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Daniel Hudeck from Trinity Lutheran Church in Reese *The Unborn Are Human***

“Each unborn life isn't a potential person, it's a person with potential” (Roman et al.). Everyone can agree that it is unconscionable to kill a toddler. However, our society finds it acceptable to end the life of the unborn. Why? What is the difference between a toddler and an unborn human being? Perhaps it is because some people do not view the unborn as a human being. The unborn are most certainly human. “According to the science of embryology from the earliest stages of development you were a distinct, living, and whole human being” (Klusendorf and Feldhahn). Only four differences distinguish the unborn from a toddler or adult and those differences do not affect their value. The unborn are human and have great value!

Size is the first difference. We would find it ridiculous to consider a large person more valuable than a smaller person. Yet this reasoning happens during abortion when a toddler's life is protected while a smaller unborn child's life is not. Level of development is the next difference. Each person has a unique set of abilities which vary based upon their age and situation, but this does not determine their inherent worth. Environment is the third difference. Are people in different places more valuable than others? No! How can your value change with a seven inch trip through the birth canal? God declares us valuable before we were born. “Before I [God] formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you” (Jeremiah 1:5). Degree of dependency is the last difference. We are all dependent on others to some degree for our basic needs. For example, we do not grow all our own food and make all our own clothing. As Paul explains in 1 Corinthians chapter twelve, we each have a unique and important role to play and need each other to function well.

The unborn are definitely human and the four qualities that make them different from a toddler or full-grown adult do not affect their value. “Just as I am” in my size, level of development, environment, and degree of dependency I am valuable to God. “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10). Each unique human being has value and a purpose designed by God before we were even born. How much potential has been missed because of abortion?



Daniel Hudeck pictured with Pastor Daniel Burhop,  
Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Reese

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Pastor Paul Clark, President, Lutherans For Life of Michigan

### **WHY SHOULD WE ATTEND THE MICHIGAN MARCH FOR LIFE?**

This fall, on **Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**, will be the **Michigan March For Life**. It will begin with a Rally at the **State Capital** in Lansing at 11:00am and end about 1:00pm.

If at all possible, you are encouraged to attend this *March For Life* with your family, friends, and fellow congregation members. Even if you have a physical limitation or disability that would make it difficult to do the March (*which will only be a few blocks*), you can still attend the Rally itself at the Capital.

### **WHY SHOULD WE ATTEND?**

#### **Three vital reasons:**

**First**, we want to clearly demonstrate that those who advocate for the lives of our unborn babies have not abandoned the battle. **We are not going away**. With the passing last year of *Proposal 3*, Michigan has become a state controlled by a radical pro-abortion agenda. There are some who may think that this would discourage pro-life people into giving up in our efforts to uphold the sanctity of human life. We need to show clearly that this is **not** the case. We will **never** give up. These tiny babies – *little boys and girls* – need us, and they need us to **stand fast**.

**Second**, it is good for us to gather together. We have been through some tough times. **We all need encouragement**. Gathering together – especially on behalf of the greatest human rights issue of our day – can only serve to inspire us as we continue to pray, witness, serve, and advocate for those whose lives are battered and eroded by the pro-death abortion mindset and agenda.

**Third**, it will be an exciting event, with several key pro-life speakers addressing the crowd. We will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our sisters and brothers from various areas of the state, and from various backgrounds, as we join together in our common desire to promote Life. More information on the speakers will follow in future news releases.

**Dear fellow Lutherans and friends: We need to be there!** We stand at a critical crossroad here in Michigan. It will take time to undo the damage of *Proposal 3*. But we faithfully stood our ground for decades as we awaited the fall of *Roe v. Wade*. **We will not give up now**. This Rally and March will be a strong statement to our fellow citizens of that truth.

**Please join us for the MICHIGAN MARCH FOR LIFE on November 8th!**

## Michigan March For Life in Lansing

Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>

This is an excellent opportunity for advocates of life of all ages and political persuasions from across the state to join with one voice on behalf of the defenseless! This rally and march are suited for all levels of experience and comfort with advocacy. (from <https://marchforlife.org/michigan-march-for-life/>)



# MICHIGAN MARCH FOR LIFE



### WHEN:

Wednesday,  
November 8, 2023

### WHERE:

Michigan State Capitol  
Steps

100 N Capitol Ave,  
Lansing, MI 48933

### SCHEDULE

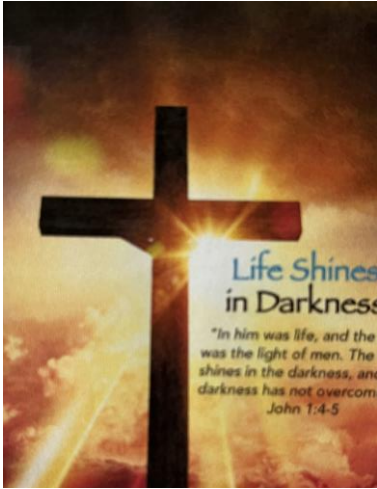
11:00 a.m. MI March for Life Rally at  
Statehouse Steps

12:00 p.m. MI March for Life

For more  
information and  
FAQ visit:

[MI.MarchforLife.org](https://MI.MarchforLife.org)





# Lutherans For Life of Michigan 2024 Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents

For Students in Grades 6-8 and 9-12

*Any student in a Lutheran school or Lutheran congregation, when validated by a teacher or pastor, is eligible. Students may also enter through a Lutheran home school, when validated by their Lutheran pastor.*

## Contest Guidelines

Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme: **Life Shines in Darkness with the Bible verse: "In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:4-5**

1. Not incorporating **the theme and verse** in the essay will disqualify the entry.
2. All essays must include a title. Using the theme as the title is acceptable, although it does not count as using the theme within the essay, which is required.
3. Examples of topics the essay could deal with are, but are not limited to, abortion, disabilities, adoption or foster care, infanticide, cloning, stem cell research, physician-assisted suicide, euthanasia, etc.

Grades 6-8 essays should be up to 400 words

Grades 9-12 essays should be up to 750 words

4. Essays should include the student's name, grade, school or church, email address, and phone number as well as the name and email address of the student's teacher or pastor.
5. All sources for references, statistics, and quotes should be incorporated within the essay and then included in a bibliography at the end.
6. Entries should be a Word document and submitted by email to [schaidtl@gmail.com](mailto:schaidtl@gmail.com) by February 28, 2024.
7. The First Place winner in each grade level division will receive a \$150 prize and advance to the national contest. The Second Place winner in each grade level division will receive a \$100 prize.
8. Grand Prize for the national winner in each division: \$250 for first place plus free conference registration to the 2024 Lutherans For Life conference and one night stay at the conference hotel. \$125 for the Second Place winner in each grade division.
9. All entries, including exclusive copyright, become the property of Lutherans For Life.
10. For questions or resources on the sanctity of life, see [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)



## Rubric for Assessment of the Life Essay

(maximum of 21 points for each essay)

	3	2	1	0
<b>ORGANIZATION</b> Structure Transitions	Logical progression of ideas with a clear structure that enhances the thesis. Transitions are mature and graceful. The essay has a nice smooth flow between ideas.	Logical progression of ideas. Transitions are present equally throughout essay. The essay has a flow of ideas.	Organization is clear. Transitions are present in some places but may be missing in others. In places flow is interrupted or doesn't exist.	No discernable organization. Transitions are not present. Connections between ideas seem confusing or incomplete.
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> Background/History Thesis Statement <b>CONCLUSION</b>	Well-developed introduction engages the reader-creates interest. Contains detailed background information. Thesis clearly states a significant and compelling position or belief. Conclusion effectively wraps up & goes beyond restating the thesis.	Introduction creates interest. Sufficient background information is provided. Thesis clearly states the position or belief. Conclusion effectively summarizes topics.	Introduction adequately explains the background, but may lack detail. Thesis states the position or belief. Conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all loose ends.	Background details are a random collection of information, unclear, or not related to the topic. Thesis is vague or unclear. Conclusion does not summarize main points.
<b>MAIN POINTS</b> Body Paragraphs, Bibliography	The main idea or thesis statement is clearly defined. There may be more than one key point. Appropriate relevant information and details are shared from a variety of sources including personal experiences, observations, feelings and prior knowledge. Supporting details are accurate, relevant, and helpful in clarifying the main idea(s). Statistics or research are used effectively. A simple bibliography gives the references for the resources used.	The main idea can be identified. The writer shares relevant information, facts and experiences. There is a clear distinction between general observations and specifics. Supporting details are relevant and explain the main idea. Research is evident and statistics are used. Missing information in bibliography.	The main idea can be identified. The writer shares some information, facts and experiences, but may express feelings without much to substantiate it. There may be problems going from general observations to specifics. Stronger support and greater attention to details would strengthen this paper. Statistics and research do little to help support the main idea. Incomplete bibliography.	More than one of the following problems may be evident: The main idea is not identifiable. The writer shares some information, but it is limited or unclear. Details are missing or repetitious. Statistics are missing. No bibliography.
<b>FOCUS</b> LFL Mission, Conference theme verse	The paper is in complete agreement with the mission of Lutherans for Life and focuses on the conference theme verse.	The paper is in agreement with the mission of Lutherans for Life and somewhat focuses on the conference theme verse.	The paper doesn't completely agree with the mission of Lutherans For Life and touches on the conference theme verse.	Little or no effort has been made to address the mission of Lutherans For Life and doesn't focus on the conference theme verse.
<b>BIBLICAL ACCURACY</b>	Several Biblical references give strong support for the main idea and are a natural part of the essay. Verses used are interpreted accurately. Citations are accurate.	Biblical references are used to support the main idea. Verses used are interpreted accurately. Citations are accurate.	There are places where a Biblical reference would have helped support the main idea. There are some problems with interpretation of the verses used. Citations are accurate.	Little effort is given to use Biblical references to support the main idea. Problems exist in the interpretation of the verses and their citations.
<b>STYLE</b> Writer's Voice, Audience Awareness	The paper is honest and enthusiastic. The language is natural yet thought-provoking. It brings the topic to life. The reader feels a strong sense of interaction with the writer and senses the person behind the words. Writing is smooth, skillful, and coherent. Sentences are strong and expressive with varied structure.	Writer's voice is consistent and strong. The writer is aware of an audience. The reader is informed and remains engaged. Sentences have varied structure.	Writer's voice may emerge strongly on occasion, then retreat behind general, vague, tentative, or abstract language. The writer is aware of an audience. The reader is informed, but must work at remaining engaged. Sentence structure shows some variety.	Writing is confusing, hard to follow. Language is vague. No audience awareness. No variety in sentence structure.
<b>MECHANICS</b> Spelling, punctuation, capitalization	Punctuation, spelling, capitalizations are correct. No errors.	Punctuation, spelling, capitalizations are generally correct, with few errors. (1-2)	A few errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization. (3-4)	Distracting errors in punctuation, spelling, capitalization

	POINTS
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	
<b>INTRODUCTION/CONCLUSION</b>	
<b>MAIN POINTS</b>	
<b>FOCUS</b>	
<b>BIBLICAL ACCURACY</b>	
<b>STYLE</b>	
<b>MECHANICS</b>	
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	

Students Name \_\_\_\_\_

Church/School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Student Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Loving Arms Macomb County Chapter Column

By: Karen Hoerauf

### LIFE SAVERS IN TRAINING

On April 15 two members of the Fraser Police/Fire department gave a demonstration of CPR and AED at St. John Lutheran in Fraser. Attendees ages 13-86 had hands-on training in basic intervention to save a life until EMS arrives.



### CHAPEL AT ST. PETER, EASTPOINTE

On May 2 Karen Hoerauf, president of Loving Arms LFL, presented chapel at St. Peter. God's provision and plan from pre-birth to old age was presented. Syncere Harris, holding the flowers, represented God's gift of marriage. Marlin Lewis, with the cane, represented God's blessings even in old age.

### CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS

In early May, Jeannette Meyer, Myranda Watson, and Deaconess Nora Gorman visited all the classrooms from K-grade 8 at St. John Lutheran School in Fraser.

They presented an age-appropriate message about God's plan for His children even before birth. They were able to use the new black fetal models which a generous donor supplied.



### Pregnancy Resource Centers in Michigan

There are more than 150 locations in Michigan that offer pregnancy and adoption help services. (Find them at [www.rtl.org/pregnancy-help](http://www.rtl.org/pregnancy-help))

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

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.



# Spotlight on **LIFE**

## Awareness

Spotlight on Life is a focus on featured life topics that can be presented at a local church or community gathering. Lutherans For Life staff are offering to be featured speakers and extend their expertise on the various life topics (see below). With Spotlight on Life, your event will be equipping many others to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. It's simple! You conduct the event and LFL will provide the speakers, based on availability. The cost will be minimal as we are excited to bring these life-affirming messages to your area. Whether your event is one hour, a half day, an evening or something else, LFL will be pleased to assist you in planning. If you are interested, please contact us at [info+spotlight@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info+spotlight@lutheransforlife.org)

## Presentation Topics

### FACTORS AFFECTING LIFE AND DEATH

- Fetal development
- Unplanned pregnancy
- Mental health
- Physical & mental disabilities

### LIFE AND DEATH

- Abortion
- Suicide
- Assisted suicide & euthanasia
- Fertilization to natural death

### FACTORS REGARDING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

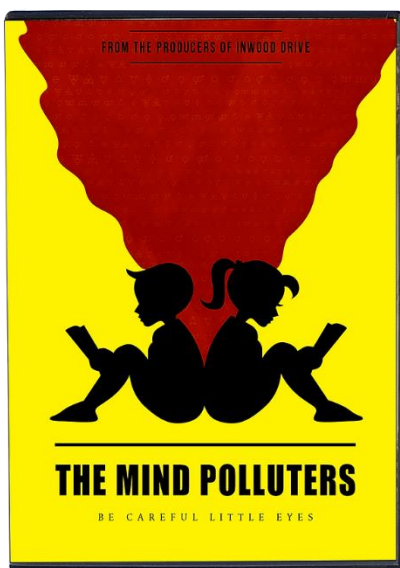
- For-Life apologetics
- Human-trafficking
- Sexuality & Gender
- Family

# What's Happening...

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lansing did a project called Baby Bottle Boomerang. We collected donations via this project to support our amazing local pregnancy center, Shared Pregnancy Women's Center.

Pictured is our church display. Along with the baby bottles, we gave out countless 10-week fetal models tucked into little booties as well as information on all things pro baby, pro mom, and pro life.

The project kicked off on Mother's Day, when we also gave out a beautiful bookmark honoring motherhood. We concluded on Father's Day, and also gave a bookmark honoring fatherhood. (Submitted by Deb Kamm)



The Life Team at St. Luke in Clinton Twp. hosted a viewing of the documentary *The Mind Polluters*, which provides an eye-opening discussion and examples of the history and harms of sex and gender education in schools throughout the country. One of the experts interviewed is Audrey Werner, who will be a speaker at St. Luke's "Speaking the Truth in Love on Life Issues" event this September (see the Upcoming Events page for more information and to register for this free event!). For more information about the documentary, please visit <https://www.fearlessfeatures.org/product-page/the-mind-polluters-dvd>.

# ...in Michigan?

Members of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids participated in the Grand Rapids PRC Life Walk on June 17. We had several first-time participants, including Justin and Leslie Walker and their two lovely children, Betty Hiler, Cindy Duncan, and Peggy Malling.

The walk began at the PRC Center 415 Cherry Street SE in downtown GR. We walked to the Life International worship center at 72 Ransom, our first prayer stop. The building was originally constructed as a synagogue in 1882. From 1994 to 2004 it was the Heritage Clinic for Women. During that period an estimated 20,000 abortions were performed there. Life International was born out of the GR PRC in 2001. They purchased the building in 2004 and transformed the former abortion center into a prayer and worship center.

From there we walked to the current abortion clinic at 320 E Fulton for our second prayer stop. According to their website, abortions are performed Wednesday through Friday, up to 22 weeks of pregnancy. We then walked to the Planned Parenthood facility at 425 Cherry St SE, next to the PRC where the walk started. After praying outside Planned Parenthood, walkers were invited to tour the PRC to see where ultrasounds and counseling take place. Refreshments were provided at the end of the tour. Several other members gave donations or made pledges to support the PRC.

Our Savior Lutheran Church is very familiar to many of the PRC staff because of our involvement with the bus-stop shelter and because some of our members volunteer at the PRC Family Center on 28<sup>th</sup> street just west of Byron Center Ave where the bus-stop shelter was installed.

Our Savior members donated 2,545 diapers and 8 packages of wipes to the PRC during the diaper drive from Mother's Day until Father's Day. The items were delivered to the PRC on Monday, June 19. Bernie, the lady that the directs the volunteers at the Family Center received the items. When she heard that they were from Our Savior Lutheran Church she said, "We are very thankful for Our Savior Church and for the members that volunteer at the center." She said they could not do what they are able to do without partners like Our Savior Church. She told of a very pregnant woman that came to the center that morning. After counseling they took her into the "store" where everything is free due to donations. The woman began to cry and said, "I will have everything that I will need for my baby." Thanks be to the Lord for your generosity and for the staff and volunteers at the Grand Rapids PRC. (Submitted by Earl Iseler)



# The Annual Diaper Drive

The following **congregations** reported that they collected a total of **35,827 diapers** along with *generous donations of other baby items and cash*.

This is a **record number** of diapers! THANK YOU!

St. Peter, Macomb  
 St. Paul, Fowler  
 St. Luke, Clinton Twp.  
 St. John, Rochester  
 Our Savior, Grand Rapids  
 Trinity, Wyandotte  
 St. Peter, Eastpointe  
 St. John, Fraser  
 Christ Our Savior, Holland  
 St. John, AuGres  
 Grace, Monroe  
 Christ the King, Southgate  
 St. Michael, Richville  
 Trinity, Sawyer  
 Faith, Whitehall  
 St. Paul, Caledonia  
 Our Redeemer, Washington Twp.

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

Compassion Pregnancy Center, Clinton Twp.  
 Abigayle Ministries, Sterling Hts.  
 Shared Pregnancy of Lansing  
 CareNet, Detroit  
 Crossroads Care Center, Auburn Hills  
 Grand Rapids Pregnancy Resource Center  
 Lincoln Park Crisis Pregnancy Center  
 Positive Options, Holland  
 Harbor Lights Pregnancy Center, Tawas  
 Heartbeat of Monroe  
 Selah's Center of Hope, Monroe  
 Life Clinic Community Resources, Bay City  
 LifePlan Pregnancy Care, Nile  
 Muskegon Pregnancy Services  
 Wyoming Pregnancy Center



Pictured above: St. John, Rochester, submitted by Dale Griffith; Trinity Muskegon permanent display, submitted by Chris Schultz



Pictured left: St. Michael, Richville (left to right Kevin Stresman, Pat Roedel, Dianne Stresman, and Nancy Bierlein, submitted by Dianne Stresman); St. Luke, Clinton Twp.; Our Redeemer, Washington Twp., submitted by Mandi Wesley

# Spotlight on a Life Team

*Submitted by Brendan Francis, St. Peter Lutheran Church in Richmond*

In 2022 St. Peter Lutheran Church celebrated its 150th year of ministry celebration! While celebrating this feat we wanted to look at opportunities to move forward as a ministry and carry out Jesus' command to us in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." With our goals toward the mission that Christ has commanded us we formed new "teams" at St. Peter, some of which include mission/outreach, prayer team, social media and technology, fellowship, and our life team!

Around last fall our life team met for the first time in the heat of election season. With Proposal 3 heavy on our minds, we looked at some things we could do as a group to help aid the election season to combat Proposal 3. As a life team we frantically passed out literature, talked to members of our congregation, and held a prayer vigil the night before the election. After the election our group needed some guidance on what direction to take. At that point I researched Lutherans For Life and thought that this organization could help St Peter advance our ministry by forming a life team! I brought the info about LFL to our Pastor and we both thought it would be a good fit. To fast forward to present day, I have taken the Life Team Leader training, and our Life Team at St Peter (which is small but growing) is nearly finished with the group training. We are looking into doing projects soon both small and large as Gospel-motivated voices For Life. We are very eager to aid in issues of life here in Michigan.

\*\*\*\*\*



A Life Team is a Gospel-motivated group of church members that communicates and shares the abundant love of Christ, in life issues within the church, and outward into the community. Members are equipped through specialized training to be a relational conduit of expertise and practical resources pertaining to the multifaceted aspects of life ministry.

These teams are designed to help the pastor with what otherwise might be an overwhelming task. Life Teams are unified, trusted teams that the pastor can utilize to provide life-issue expertise, consistent initiatives, and access to dedicated resources. A Life Team will also help the pastor engage and inform the congregation from the pulpit, through Sunday school, and through youth and adult education about the importance of protecting the sanctity of human life at all stages.

To find out more about starting a Life Team, contact Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations at [vflo@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:vflo@lutheransforlife.org) or 651.333.0337.

(From <https://lutheransforlife.org/frontlines/life-teams>)

## Upcoming Events

### **Speaking the Truth in Love: Harmful Sex and Gender Education**

Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Clinton Twp., 10:00 – 2:30

Speakers: Audrey Werner, Author of the book *10 Tips on How NOT to Talk to Your Kids about Sex* and  
Founder of *The Matthew 18 Group*

**AND**

Christa Petzold, Co-Author of the book *Male and Female: Embracing Your Role in God's Design*

This event is free, lunch will be provided, and a free will offering will help with the cost.

Please RSVP by August 28<sup>th</sup> to Lauren at [schaidtl@gmail.com](mailto:schaidtl@gmail.com) or (586)214-3116.

### **DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF UNBORN CHILDREN**

#### **September 10 | Centreville**

A special service will take place at St. Paul's, Centreville at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 10. Everyone is welcome to join in the observance and invited to a reception afterwards. For more information, [click here](#).

*(From Michigan In Touch E-News June/July 2023)*

### **Annual Life Chain**

Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>

Suggested time: 2:00-3:30

Go to [www.lifechain.org](http://www.lifechain.org) for more information.



**2023 Lutherans For Life National Conference  
October 11-13**

Holiday Inn Cincinnati Airport | Erlanger, Kentucky  
with visits to the

**Ark Encounter and Creation Museum**

Online registration opens April 11.

**SAVE THE DATE!**



*Are you excited yet?! We are! Looking forward to learning and exploring with you at our 2023 National Conference taking place just outside Cincinnati, in Erlanger, Kentucky, October 11-13. After a morning of devotions and learning with a keynote speaker and breakout sessions at the Holiday Inn Cincinnati Airport, we'll head out for a scheduled visit to Answers in Genesis attractions—the Creation Museum on October 11 and the Ark Experience on October 12. Dinner will offer time for fellowship back at the hotel and is included in your conference rate. Breakfast is included with the hotel stay. Lunches will be on your own, with options available at the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter. (from [www.lutheransforlife.org/conference](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/conference), go there to register!)*

***Would you like to attend the Lutherans For Life National Conference but the cost is a concern?***

Lutherans For Life of Michigan is offering **6 sponsorships** to Michigan residents on a first come first served basis to help with the cost! Just send your registration confirmation along with your email address or phone number where you would like to be notified that you have received a sponsorship to our Treasurer Earl Iseler at the address or email below. The sponsorship will be a reimbursement for the cost of registration for the conference plus entrance into the Ark Encounter and the Creation Museum.

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

**[lflmi.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:lflmi.treasurer@gmail.com)**

**A Message From the Treasurer**

We praise and thank the Lord of Life for all of your generous donations! The Lord has richly blessed our ministry through your generous donations. Lutherans For Life of Michigan would like to discuss providing seed money for your congregation to start a Life Team. We would also like to discuss sponsoring a Life Issues event at your congregation. Please contact Pastor Paul Clark, Earl Iseler, or any of the members of the Board to initiate discussions. Contact information for all Board members is provided inside the front cover of the newsletter.

**Beginning January 1, 2024, Brendan McMahon will be the new Treasurer.** Therefore we are not including remittance envelopes in this issue. Envelopes with Brendan's address will be included in the November December January Lifelines. **Please continue to send your donations to my address through December 31, 2023.**

**Lutherans For Life of Michigan Treasurer**

**C/O Earl Iseler**

**7455 Navajo Valley Dr SW**

**Byron Center, MI 49315-8271**

If the name or names, and address on your 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 \_\_\_\_\_**

**OR**

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

**Please send notification of this gift to:**

**Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_**

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

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

**Your name (s) \_\_\_\_\_**

---

**There is temporary hold on electronic donations.** We have canceled our account because of increased cost. We plan to have a new service for electronic donations in the near future. If you go to the donate window on our website a message will be displayed saying, "the form cannot be loaded."

When we have an account with another service, that error message will be eliminated. If you want to make an electronic donation, please check the website in a few weeks. Thank you for your patience.



The "I WANT TO SPEAK FOR LIFE" form provided below 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 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 LFL 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 - 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

331 North Sorrell Street Box 317

Fowler, MI 48835

NON PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI  
PERMIT NO. 321



## In the Next Issue...

National LFL Conference Report

Life Sunday 2024 Resources

Legislative Report

What's Happening...in Michigan

Upcoming Events

And More!

## Quotes

“No matter what our days bring, God is the answer. His love never ends. His strength is our strength. He cares about each one of us in the most intimate of relationships. Through Jesus, we are His beloved children. We are here, in the land of the living, for His good purpose and at His will. Each day is a day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!” *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, D.V.M., Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

“For all who have been damaged by the sin of abortion—and for all who have been complicit by not speaking up in defense of innocent babies—repent, and then hear the sweet and comforting words of Jesus: ‘Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest’ (Matthew 11:28). God give us courage to engage in the battle For Life!” *Pastor Paul Clark, President of Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*