

Lifelines

May.June.July 2017

Recently, there was a remarkable discovery by researchers at Northwestern University in Chicago. Here is how one newspaper described it: *“Human life begins in a bright flash of light as a sperm meets an egg, scientists have shown for the first time, after capturing the astonishing “fireworks” on film. An explosion of tiny sparks erupts from the egg at the exact moment of conception.”*

And God said, **“Let there be light...”**

Isn't it amazing that the God who spoke into existence all things in six days, continues to bless our world with every single and miraculous conception of a baby?

How can this not fill our hearts with wonder?

And yet, the harsh shouts of the pro-abortion advocates continue to bombard our ears, with their demand for unfettered access to abortion. With the pro-life movement's recent gains, the anger and bitterness of Planned Parenthood and those who back the abortion industry have become ever shriller and unrelenting.

But God said, *“Let there be light”*...and there was light.

And our God is the **God of Life**...and that spark of life is truly a divine gift. Furthermore, the God of Life has done what no man could – He has bought back His people from the bitterness and bondage of sin. He has released us from the devil's power. He has done this by giving us His very own Son, **Jesus Christ**, who *for us sinners* died and was buried...and *for us sinners* rose again on the Third Day, that *we may know* that our sins are forgiven, and that *we are* His blessed and redeemed people.

As many in this fallen world continue to demand the right to kill, to enslave, to destroy the good things that God has created – most especially our unborn children – we need to remember that we may be *in* the world, but we are not *of* the world.

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Our voice will not – *must not* – match the cacophony of the world. ***We are God's forgiven people, called to proclaim Him who calls us out of darkness and into His marvelous light.*** There has never been a more critical moment to stand up for Life. ***As the abortion rights movement continues to weave its web of deception, we must remain vigilant and steadfast in unravelling those lies and telling the truth: That every single life is precious to God.*** Jesus died for every single person. And certainly each and every child – a little baby girl or boy *in* or *out* of the womb – is ***precious*** in His sight!

As we celebrate the renewal of life that has been given through the **Resurrected Jesus**, and is ours in the blessed and saving bath of **Holy Baptism**, let us continue in the fight for the right to life in our land.

Marked by His blood, shed for us on the cross, we are His forgiven people, and we bear this Word of forgiveness, hope, and life to a broken and dying world.

God bless you as you speak the truth in love, and stand up for those who cannot defend themselves.
Pastor Paul Clark

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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THANK YOU...

Pastor Timothy & Betty Loewe, *Temperance*

Boyd & Pauline Terry, *Vassar*

[in memory of Albert Weber]

St Paul Lutheran Church, *Fowler*

[in honor of leadership of Connie Davis]

St Mark Lutheran Church, *Flint*

[Life Sunday door offering]

Anthony Pauza, *West Bloomfield*

Diana M Weber, *Frankenmuth*

St Matthew Lutheran Church, *Holt*

[January door offering]

[Missions Account offering]

St John Lutheran Church, *Fraser*

[Missions donation]

St Matthew Lutheran Church, *Spring Lake*

[Missions - Charity of the Month]

St Lorenz Lutheran Church, *Frankenmuth*

Atonement Ladies Aid, *Dearborn*

Delphine Mallinson, *Rochester Hills*

[in memory of Ed Houghn]

[in memory of Miriam Sohn]

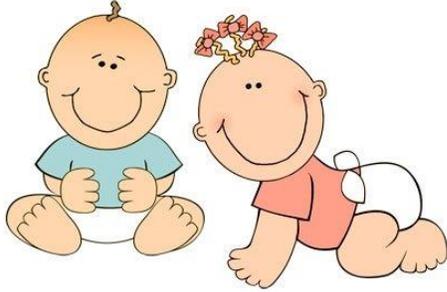
Verna & Rebecca Squanda, *Vassar*

St Michael Lutheran Church, *Richville*

[Life Sunday door offering]

Janice Hough, *Kalamazoo*

[THANK YOU...continued on page 4]



LFL Annual Statewide Diaper Shower

May 14th – June 18th

Every Lutheran congregation in Michigan is invited to participate in this annual project to assist mothers and their babies.

The procedure is very simple ...

- * Encourage the members of your congregations [via bulletin and oral announcements] to purchase packages of disposable diapers.
- * Designate an area in your church building for the collection of diapers.
- * Once the diapers are collected, please tally the **individual** diapers collected and call or email the total to Connie at 586-949-9261 or lflmi.president@gmail.com
- * Deliver the collected diapers to the nearest pregnancy resource center in your area. The centers are always so appreciative of these gifts for mothers and children in need.
- * We also encourage you to take photographs of your congregation's collection area and email them to lflmi.president@gmail.com for inclusion in our quarterly *Lifelines* newsletter...as space permits.

Note: For congregations with elementary schools/youth groups/ Sunday Schools...this is a great project to encourage students/teens/children to actively extend God's love to those in need.

THANK YOU...continued

Honorable Joanne & John Emmons, *Big Rapids*

Pastor Richard & Bonnie Laeder, *Lansing*
[Life Leadership Summit donation]

Anonymous
[Offerings at Life Leadership Summit]

Joyce Adams, *Bay City*

Dorothy Kethe, *Eastpointe*
[in memory of Marion Coofis]

Eldine Parent, *Bay City*
[in honor of Robert Schulz's 91st birthday]

2017 National Lutherans For Life Regional Conference

“Hope For Life”

September 16, 2017

Concordia Seminary in Ft Wayne, Indiana

“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...”

Save the date. Details to follow.

Please note that this quarterly newsletter is also available to you digitally. If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please contact us at lflmi.president@gmail.com

Please consider ‘friending’ us on Facebook at Lutherans For Life of Michigan (Religious Organization) with pre-natal baby icon. [There appear to be a number of different pages entitled Lutherans For Life of Michigan!]



Pastor and Mrs Brad Garrison gave an inspirational and informative presentation on the Luke Project 5-2 Clinic on Monday, March 7th. They were hosted by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Washington, MI. They spoke on the great need to save mothers and babies in Detroit and share the Gospel message with these families. The number of deaths from the lack of prenatal care, nutritional guidance, safe baby sleep, and general health information is horrific in Detroit and many inner city areas. These women have no transportation, little money, and even lack incentive for seeking healthy solutions. Luke 5-2 provides a supervised area for children while their mothers are seen by doctors, nurses, social workers and more. They are provided pharmaceutical help and referrals to specialists for special needs. The people who work at Luke 5-2 are all volunteers. An LCMS congregation, Family of God Lutheran, provides the rooms for the services provided and the material goods handed out. They also offer a homemade supper for the families who wish to stay. It is a compassionate and loving ministry that is provided by so many amazing people. Please consider having Pastor Garrison preach at your congregation and provide a Bible study some Sunday. You won't be disappointed. They need our help to further this ministry so that it can become mobile. Yes, they want to take their distinctive ministry to other churches in Detroit, rural areas and beyond to help even more women and children. The Luke 5-2 Clinic is sponsored by the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in cooperation with St John Providence Hospital, Spartan Nash Pharmacies, Wellspring, local congregations and volunteer health professionals.

(submitted by Donna Zuehlk, Life Advocate at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Washington, MI)

2017 March For Life & LCMS Life Conference in Washington DC



On the left: A busload of students from Valley Lutheran High School in Saginaw conduct devotions as they prepare to leave on their trip to Washington, DC to participate in the March For Life.

On the right: LCMS President Matthew Harrison visits with Earl and JoAnne Iseler at the 2017 March For Life in the nation's capitol.



Valley Lutheran High School Students Reactions to the March For Life

"It was so inspiring. It changed my opinion/view on being pro-life. I am for the cause 100% more now." [Kendall Merritt]

"It was a great experience to learn and view the physical amount of people that are pro-life. My favorite memory was looking back in the middle of the march to view a sea of people in front of and behind me." [Brad Gipson]

"Being on the march for a second time really opened my eyes. The first time was all about realization. The second time was all about confirmation and strengthening. The feeling of standing among thousands of people that all are fighting for this cause can't be put into words. I wouldn't trade that feeling of pure amazement for anything." [Ruby Yantz]

"My favorite memory was seeing so many people there and joining in all the pro-life chants. I also liked talking to people from all across the country and seeing people come together from all over." [Daisy Powers]

[submitted by Ruby Yantz, 11th grade student at Valley Lutheran High School]

2017 March For Life [January 27th] and LCMS Life Conference [January 28th – 29th]

Hundreds of LCMS Christians, including LFL-MI Treasurer, Earl Iseler and his wife JoAnne, joined the estimated 500,000 to 600,000 people for the 2017 March For Life in Washington DC on Friday, January 27th.

On the days following the march [Saturday, January 28th and Sunday, January 29th] the LCMS held a Life Conference at the Westin Hotel in Arlington, VA. Dr George Delgao, a medical doctor, addressed the conference attendees on the topic "Abortion Pill Reversal". Breakout sessions were offered both Saturday and Sunday which included:

- 1) Pastor Christopher Esget, LCMS 6th Vice President and pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Alexandria, VA on "*Why We Are ProLife: A Bible Study*"
- 2) Pastor Jonathan Lange, chairman of district Life Coordinators, on "*Pastor's Round-table: The Pro-Life Congregation*"
- 3) Dr Donna Harrison, Executive Director of Pro-Life Obstetricians & Gynecologists, on "*Reproductive Choice: Assisted Reproductive Technology*"
- 4) Pastor John Pless, assistant professor of Pastoral Ministry & Mission at the Ft Wayne Seminary, on "*End of Life Issues*"
- 5) Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life, on "*Still Here: Care for the Post-Abortive Woman*"
- 6) Pastor Jonathan Ruehs, Associate Pastor of Outreach at Concordia Irvine, CA on "*Walking Alongside Families with Special Needs Children*"
- 7) Pastor Jonathon Fisk, who hosts *His Time* on KFUO on "*The Demographic Winter & the Church That Prays for Summer*"

LCMS President Matthew Harrison stated we need to be merciful and compassionate...we cannot be people of anger. Christianity is not about 'doing'...it is about 'being'.

[submitted by Earl Iseler]

What's Happening...



On January 18th, Jennifer Connelly, Life Advocate at Immanuel Monroe, presented the message *Created, Redeemed, Called* and the Owen's Mission fetal models to the students and teachers at Trinity Lutheran School in Jackson. Jennifer writes, "The models were well-received and there was a lot of interest from the students and teachers." Pictured on the left are Principal Lisa Singleton [L] and Jennifer Connelly [R]

[Photo submitted by Jennifer Connelly]



Christ Our King Lutheran Church in Saline held a baby shower on January 29th to benefit Family Life Services (FLS), a pregnancy resource center that has been active in Washtenaw County for over 30 years. COK members, Kathy Dasse and Becky Siller, invited guests to bring an item to donate to FLS. The items filled several tables. Director of FLS, Karalee Robison, told of the women and children served by the pregnancy center...offering life affirming alternatives to abortion. Many COK members are active volunteers at the center or are involved with the 40 Days For Life campaign which sends women to FLS from the doors of Planned Parenthood. This cooperation is the body of Christ at work in the community!

[article and photos submitted by Betsy French]



St Paul Lutheran Church in Fowler hosts an annual breakfast on Life Sunday where confirmands present FOR LIFE essays they have written. This year's participants are pictured on the left: Pastor Paul Clark [senior pastor], Rachel Kathrens, Max Koenigs knecht, Karissa Schlak, and Pastor Lance Klamer [associate pastor and kantor]

...in Michigan?



LFL-MI Lutheran Schools Outreach Coordinator, Chris Schultz, presented the Owen's Mission message and fetal models to the students and teachers at Immanuel Lutheran School Frankentrost on January 24th. Pictured with Chris is principal is Jonathan Kamin. Chris writes: "It was pj/sweats day for Lutheran schools week. First time I got this reaction from the DVD. A boy said, 'That's sad that the baby died.' I assured him Owen was in heaven and, because of him, Lutheran schools were going to learn about...God's creation."

[Photo & remarks submitted by Chris Schultz]



The students at St Peter Macomb designated the monies they collected from their second quarter chapel offerings to three LIFE ministries...Abigayle Ministries (a residential home for unwed, pregnant women), Compassion Pregnancy Resource Center of Macomb County, and Luke Project 5 2 (a pre-natal clinic for mothers and their children in Detroit). With the \$827.39 offering monies, various requested items were purchased for the ministries: **Abigayle Ministries** received a car seat/stroller combo, 2 umbrella strollers, an exersaucer and a baby doll which will be used to teach new mothers how to do baby massages. **Compassion PRC** received 7 pack-n-plays. **Luke Project 5 2** received 18 crib sheets, 18 blanket wraps, and a 6-pack of onesies.

Pictured above receiving the gifts from St Peter Lutheran School: [L] Sue Nellis at Compassion PRC and [R] Susan Meyer, Director of Abigayle Ministries. We thank the children for their generous gifts.

[Information and photos submitted by Ruthann Bettcher, member of the Life Team at St Peter Macomb]

The newly formed Life Team at St John Lutheran Church in Rochester met on February 7th to discuss ways to share the FOR LIFE message with members of their congregation and community.



What's happening in Michigan? continued



Chris Schultz, Lutheran Schools Outreach Coordinator, attended the Pastor/Principal meeting on February 22nd at Valley Lutheran High School. She was given time to present the information about Owen's Mission and her availability to present the Touch of Life models to any Lutheran school in Michigan. There was great interest in the project.

On March 22, Chris Schultz presented Owen's Mission message and Touch of Life fetal models to St Paul Lutheran School in Millington. Pictured on the right is principal Paul Schoenknecht receiving the models from Chris.



St Matthew Lutheran Church in Holt hosted a Life Leadership Summit organized by the LFL-MI Board of Directors. Men and women from 17 different congregations were in attendance...sharing ideas on how to promote the FOR LIFE message in their churches and communities. Pictured on the right are: Pastor Chris Thoma from Our Savior Hartland [guest speaker who spoke on *The Body of Christ in the Public Square*], Connie Davis [LFL-MI president], and Pastor Paul Clark [Spiritual Advisor for LFL-MI and LCMS Michigan District Life Issues Coordinator].

Legislative Report submitted by Pastor Paul Clark

In Washington DC:

Judge Neil Gorsuch has become Justice Neil Gorsuch as he was sworn in as a Supreme Court Justice of the United States.

Justice Gorsuch fills the seat of the late pro-life Justice Antonin Scalia. The Supreme Court has been without nine justices for over a year. Justice Gorsuch is expected to be seated on the Supreme Court before it begins its next session of oral arguments on April 17th.

Senators voted 54-45 for Gorsuch with a few Democrats voting with all Republicans for his nomination. Manchin of West Virginia, Donnelly of Indiana, and Heitkamp of North Dakota joined Republicans.

After the Senate vote, pro-life groups applauded Gorsuch's confirmation.

National Right to Life called the vote the "capstone on yesterday's landmark victory, when united Senate Republicans put an end to the ability of Senate Democrats to utilize the filibuster to deny confirmation to Supreme Court nominees of Republican presidents."

"McConnell's successful 'nuclear' motion produced a historic victory for Senate Republicans, the President, and the country – and a huge defeat for a coalition of left-wing groups, led by the abortion lobby, that had relentlessly pressured Democratic senators to filibuster the confirmation of Judge Gorsuch," said National Right to Life Senior Policy Advisor Douglas D Johnson. "For decades, liberal senators and interest groups had attacked Republican judicial nominees with procedural and political weapons that Republicans were slow to match. This week, the Republicans took decisive action to restore parity to the judicial confirmation process, and we commend them for it."

National Right to Life President Carol Tobias added, "All too often, our efforts to protect unborn children and other vulnerable humans have been overridden by judges who believe they have a right to impose their own policy preferences. Judge Gorsuch appears to believe that judges are constrained to enforce the text and original intent of constitutional provisions, and on all other matters should defer to democratically elected lawmakers – this heartens us, and alarms those who have relied on activist judges to impose their radical pro-abortion policies."

In Michigan:

The Senate Transportation heard testimony on SB 163 to create a CHOOSE LIFE fundraising license plate. Bill sponsor, Senator Patrick Colbeck, gave a moving testimony about raising funds to support women in crisis. This was followed by two opposing testimonies from the American Association of University Women [Michigan Chapter] and Planned Parenthood. Right to Life of Michigan provided the final testimony in support of the bill.

The pro-abortion testimonies reached typical levels of absurdity. Pro-life pregnancy centers were referred to as 'baby-finding centers' placed near college campuses to allow infertile wealthy "white people to recruit and adopt white babies from a 'better genetic pool of white college women.'" Planned Parenthood's first line of testimony accused Right to Life of Michigan of "standing in the way of reducing abortions in Michigan." The pro-life senators on the committee were incredulous.

Please pray that this bill would be passed.

Upcoming Events in 2017

May 2 – Exhibit at North & East Pastors' Conference in Bay City

May 5 – FOR LIFE presentation at St Luke Lutheran School in Clinton Twp

May 9 – 10 – Exhibit at South & East Pastors' Conference in Frankenmuth

May 16 – Exhibit at West Pastors' Conference in Traverse City

May 18 – 20 – Exhibit at INCH Conference in Lansing

May 14 – June 18 – Annual Statewide Diaper Shower

September 16 – “Hope For Life” LFL National Regional Conference at Concordia Seminary Fort Wayne, Indiana

October 8 – 10 – Exhibit at Michigan District All Pastors' Conference in Boyne Falls

Owen's Mission

Owen's Mission is a very special project of Lutherans For Life. The goal of this project is to honor Jesus by presenting a set of *Touch of Life* fetal models to every Lutheran elementary and high school in the country. (That's 1078 schools affecting 139,000 students!) We want students to understand the God-given value of each life from the moment of conception. We want students to be motivated by what God has done as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier that gives value to life. We want students to value themselves and to value others as persons because of this God-given value.

Where did **Owen's Mission** come from? From a very small and special baby named Owen. Rev Dr James Lamb, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life, shares his story:

"I held my little grandson, Owen, in the palm of my hand. He died at twenty-one weeks during pre-natal surgery to remove a large tumor. The nurse brought him to our son as we waited in the recovery room for Owen's mother. I find it difficult to describe what I felt when I was able to hold him. I had held the twenty-week Touch of Life fetal model in my hands hundreds of times in front of students from preschoolers to seminarians. Holding Owen revived in me the reality behind those models. I will never hold them in the same way again."

As Owen's grandpa, Dr Lamb wanted to do something special to remember Owen, honor Jesus, and help others understand the value God gives to even the smallest of lives. With the help of Owen's family, **Owen's Mission** was born. We are training facilitators to present these fetal model sets along with a DVD message from Dr Lamb.

This is a mission opportunity for individual, congregational, and/or school offerings. For more information on how you can obtain a set of these fetal models for your school, contact Chris Schultz at ckay.schultz@gmail.com or 734-770-7699.

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 *



Y4Life Servant Events are a wonderful opportunity for chapters, life teams, schools and churches to reach out to youth and engage them in making a meaningful difference for Life in their community. They are adaptable to your area and your students and, best of all, they lay the foundation for future ministry opportunities with youth. Laura Davis, national Y4Life director, will help equip youth to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life! Email Laura for help with life-affirming youth servant events nationwide: ldavis@lutheransforlife.org.

To order life-affirming materials from Lutherans For Life, visit the Concordia Publishing House website:

www.cph.org

Under the Education tab, click on Sanctity of Life.

The National Lutherans For Life website has a large selection of materials...articles on various Life Issues, a Life Blog, Life Notes, Life Quotes, Life Thoughts in the Church Year, DVD Bible Study Guides, etc.

www.lutheransforlife.org

WORD OF HOPE...

LFL's Post Abortion Healing Ministry

If you are in a crisis situation, have had an abortion, are pregnant right now, or have been hurt by someone, here you will find hope.

Please contact Word of Hope
1-888-217-8679

www.word-of-hope.org
help@word-of-hope.org

Lutherans For Life of Michigan

23775 – 24 Mile Road

Macomb, MI 48042



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Notes and Quotes

* Generations to come need Lutherans who love life today! Fathers love life when they model chivalry, fidelity, courage, character, and servant-style leadership. Mothers love life when they model purity, virtue, homemaking, hospitality, and relationship-building. Grandparents love life when they pass on stories of faith.” [Linda Bartlett, former president of LFL]

* “Very sad – the Church denying women and men forgiveness and healing because talking about abortion might make someone feel bad. It’s more than sad. It’s a missed opportunity to apply the Gospel where forgiveness and healing is desperately needed!” [Diane Schroeder, former president of LFL]

* “Stand beside and help that single mother. Stand beside and help those with special needs. Stand beside and help those caring for an Alzheimer’s patient. And, beloved Church, for which our Savior died, please faithfully teach the full council of God, so much of which is anchored in the doctrine of the sanctity of human life.” [Pastor Don Richman, LFL International Representative]

* “With love, children are adopted, not aborted. With love, children are cherished, not abused”. [Dr Alveda King, niece of Dr Martin Luther King, Jr]

* “When our souls are filled with guilt, He offers us forgiveness. When life draws to a close, He assures us of a heavenly home. When humans fail us, He promises never to fail or forsake us. When we have made mistakes, He tells us it’s never too late to start over. When life is boring, He gives us new challenges. Many crosses can be added to our life’s journey, but Jesus has promised, ‘Cast all your cares on Me, for I care for you’ (1Peter 5:7)” [Pastor Homer Larson, speaker on the Christian Crusaders radio program]

* “Whenever Satan whispers into the ear of an expectant mother, ‘It’s your body, your fetus, your choice,’ that’s when we will share the Lord’s Word which says: ‘You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body’ (1 Corinthians 6:19b-20). To those who are afraid of an unknown future, we will share God’s promise: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine’ (Isaiah 43:1b-3a).” [Ken Klaus, former Lutheran Hour speaker]

* When commands of an established earthly authority conflict with divine commands, the Christian is obligated to follow the commands of God.