

Lifelines

November.December.January 2018

There is an evil festering in our society that will go to any means to defend the so-called right to kill an unborn baby. One of the resting places of such evil is in *Planned Parenthood*. The spokesmen and leaders of *Planned Parenthood* will fight tooth and nail to keep any restriction or law from blocking access to abortion. It is sad to see many people devote their lives to the murder of those who are most vulnerable and defenseless among us – such as the unborn child.

Our God – *the God who gives us life* – calls us to resist evil. In Romans 12:21, the Lord says, “**Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**”

How do we overcome such rampant evil in this world?

First, with the **truth**, and that truth is found not in man’s word, but in God’s Word. This is the truth that sees sin as what it is – that which separates us from a holy God and condemns us to judgment. The truth revealed in God’s Law compels us to either harden our heart and go our own way, or, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to see our sins and repent. Furthermore, the truth of the Gospel unwraps for us the love of God in Christ, who by His passion and death removes our sins from us, as far as the east is from the west, that we might be known as sons and daughters of God.

As Lutherans, we stand by **the Word of God**. It is inerrant, it is effective, it is holy, for the author of that Word is the Holy One Himself. In this 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, we must continue to stand on the unfailing truths of the Word of God. This includes the command, “*You shall not murder.*” Thus, there is no choice for the Biblical Lutheran except to be on the front line speaking out against the holocaust of abortion, doctor-prescribed suicide, euthanasia, or any deliberate termination of an innocent human life.

Second, we overcome evil with good with **the love of Christ**. That does not mean excusing sin or watering down the truth. But we know the power of the Gospel, as a means of the Holy Spirit, to convert, to forgive, to deliver the gift of eternal life to people who

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walk in darkness. In Jesus, there is forgiveness for the woman who has had an abortion. There is hope for the one who has formerly turned his or her back on God’s commands. There is the promise of life instead of just the despair of death, and salvation instead of condemnation. Here, **in Christ crucified**, there is release from the snare of the old evil foe; and **in Jesus**, we find the source of that good which *can* overcome evil.

So as we celebrate the Reformation, continue to stand. Stand on God’s pure Word always. Do not fall for the lies and deceit of this world with its convoluted arguments for the wanton destruction of human life. Do not listen to those who call evil good and good evil. **But stand with Christ**, and armed with the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God --- use your time, your gifts, your vote, your best efforts to speak up against the slaughter of our children. Find your voice, *and with the help of our mighty fortress God*, use it.

Pastor Paul Clark

LFL-MI Spiritual Advisor, Legislative Reporter, & President Pro Tem



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.

LFL-MI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Secretary & Life Issues Contest Coordinator:

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Email address: lflmi.president@gmail.com

Website: www.lflmi.org

THANK YOU...

Mark & Doris Puls, *Alpena*

James & Ruth Tafel, *Alto*
[in honor of Dick & Rose Stahl]

Lois Frantz, *Alpena*

Delphine Mallinson, *Rochester Hills*
[in memory of Cynthia Martens]

Shirley Ritter, *Boyne City*

Earl & JoAnne Iseler, *Rockford*
[in memory of Marion Friedrich, former secretary of the Greater
Grand Rapids LFL Chapter]

Pastor Timothy & Betty Loewe, *Temperance*
[in honor of their grandchildren]

Carol Harmon, *Ironwood*

Pastor Robert Koeppen, *Midland*

Anthony Pauza, *West Bloomfield*

Byron & Donna Zuehlk, *Washington*
[in honor of Connie Davis' Retirement]

Paul & Ruth Germeroth, *Canton*
[in honor of Connie Davis' Retirement]

PLEASE NOTE

our new address...

Lutherans For Life of Michigan
331 North Sorrell Street
Box 317
Fowler, MI 48835

Leadership Changes on LFL of Michigan Board

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in the ministry of Lutherans For Life for the past 30+ years ... 23 of those as president of Lutherans For Life of Michigan. Because of health challenges, I believe God has directed me to retire from ministry leadership. Therefore, there are important changes to note on the Board of Directors of LFL-MI.

New contact information for Lutherans For Life of Michigan:

For questions regarding the **LFL ministry in general** contact:

Pastor Paul Clark, President Pro Tem

517-420-4826

revpmclark@charter.net or flmi.president@gmail.com

All donations, memorials, honorariums should be sent to:

Earl Iseler, Treasurer

6833 Woodhill NE

Rockford, MI 49341-9214

616-866-8026

iselerea@comcast.net

Questions regarding the **Life Issues Contest** should be directed to:

Lauren Schaidt, Secretary/Life Issues Contest Coordinator

586-214-3116

lschaidt@comcast.net

Articles/photos for newsletter and Statewide Diaper Shower tally should be submitted to:

Jennifer Connelly, *Lifelines* Newsletter Editor

500 Howard Drive

Monroe, MI 48161-1651

734-731-1609

jensuepooh@gmail.com

Please keep the vital ministry of Lutherans For Life in your personal and congregational prayers. In a culture that champions death over life (abortion legal...euthanasia being pushed by legislation), it is imperative that we share the FOR LIFE message of LFL...the Gospel-motivated message that all human life is loved and valued...from conception to death. We are not just opposed to the pro-death agenda, but, more importantly, we promote life-affirming alternatives. We are FOR LIFE!!! These are not political issues...they are spiritual issues that God addresses in His Word...and we, as His people, must give witness to His truth in our thoughts, words, and actions.

Thank you for your support and encouragement during these past 23 years. They have truly been a blessing to me.

In His service...FOR LIFE!

Connie Davis



On September 10th, at a Retirement Dinner hosted by the LFL of Michigan Board of Directors, Connie was presented with ***The Madonna*** painting [L] by Michigan artist, Ed Rojas.

Pastor Michael Salamink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life, was also in attendance and presented Connie and her husband Terry [R] with the framed print, ***I Knew You***, by Shannon Wirrenga.





“Picture a Future You Cannot See”

An Interdenominational Conference on Adoption, Foster Parenting, & Other Possibilities

Saturday, November 11, 2017

St Matthew Lutheran Church

2040 South Commerce Road

Walled Lake, MI 48390

7:30 am – Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:10 – Keynote Speaker: **Dr Ray Guarendi**

Clinical psychologist, radio talk show host, father of 10 adopted children

Dr Guarendi is not only a thoughtful and inspiring speaker, but he's funny too!

* Do you have **young married couples** among you who long to have and raise children? That does not always come so naturally and sometimes not at all.

* Are there **families** among you in which the parents long to show love and have an impact on the lives of more than just their own biological children?

* Are there **older singles** in your midst who have never been blessed with marriage or the joys and challenges of raising a family but have love and resources to share?

Are there **empty-nesters** (who may or may not have married children or grandchildren) who long to do something that could make a difference in the life of someone who's missed out on some of the blessings of 'a forever family'?

This conference is for those who may be interested in learning more about:

* **adoption**

* **foster-parenting**

* **supporting or mentoring children and young adults** who are either in the foster care system or who have 'aged out' of the system at around age 18 or 21 – but have never been adopted into a family and need to know that someone cares.

[For more information. contact Marv Walden at 248-231-3632]



Trinity Lutheran Church in Utica is partnering with Image Clear Ultrasound Mobile Medical Clinic to bring their RV, equipped with an ultrasound unit, to the church's south parking lot on the corner of M59 and Van Dyke twice monthly beginning on September 23rd. Their prayer is that this ministry will help abortion-minded women and others who need answers to get the help they need.

The RV is fully equipped and run by licensed ultrasound technicians plus Christian counselors. They share the Gospel, direct women to Compassion (Macomb) or Crossroads (Rochester) Pregnancy Resource Centers where they will find hope, forgiveness, and love.

Bev Dixon, a former member of Faith Troy and director of Image Clear Unit Inc., began this ministry 2-1/2 years ago. They are asking for new or slightly used children's books and baby blankets to give as gifts to younger children accompanying their mothers...and for the mothers themselves. Perhaps you could put a basket in your church for books and blankets?

Pastor Lewis Stier, Social Ministry Pastor at Trinity, has paved the way for this ministry by getting donations, taking care of the legal aspects and much more. It costs \$400 each time the bus comes to Trinity. Payments are made up through December 2017.

Dates for the RV to be at Trinity:

September 23rd, October 14th & 28th, November 11th, December 2nd & 16th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Stier (586-731-4490) or Bev Dixon (248-766-1845)

[Article & photo submitted by Kathy Zappitell, member of Trinity's Life Team]

Life Issues Contest

Plan now to participate in the 2018 Life Issues Contest sponsored by Lutherans For Life of Michigan. As part of the mission of LFL-MI to educate and equip our young people to be Gospel-motivated voices on Life issues, we encourage all Lutheran congregations to participate in this contest by presenting the opportunity to address these issues to their 7th and 8th grade students.

There are two categories in which students can address the value of life in accordance with God's Word...

Essay OR Artistic Project

Life issues which the students may choose from are:

Abortion - Sexual Purity – Euthanasia - Assisted Suicide - Embryonic Stem Cell Research

For more detailed information... for guidelines & rubrics... please go to our website at www.lflmi.org

What's Happening...



The Life Team at St Luke Lutheran Church in Clinton Twp hosted an 'end of life issues' event on September 9th. The video, ***L.I.F.E at the End of Life***, with former LFL Executive Director James Lamb from the 2013 National Conference in Des Moines, IA was viewed. A discussion, led by Pastors Russell Johnson and Scott Benjamin, followed. This excellent video can be viewed by going to the Lutherans For Life website at www.lutheransforlife.org

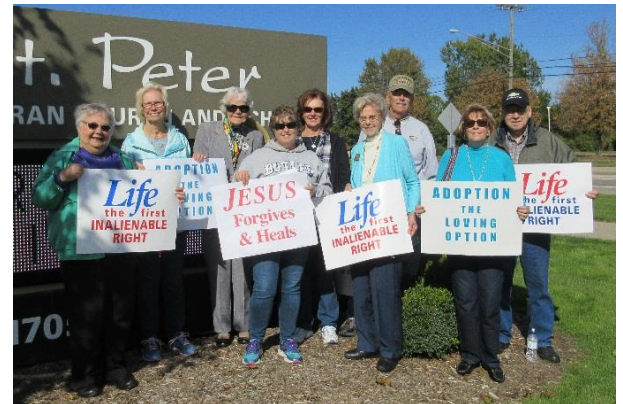


On September 28th, Living Word Lutheran in Plymouth hosted a Panel Discussion on Life Issues which included speakers Pastor Daniel Burhop from Trinity Lutheran Reese and Pastor Chris Thoma from Our Savior Lutheran Hartland. Pictured on the L: Pastor Sam Watters and his wife, Linda, from Living Word Plymouth with Pastor Paul Clark, LFL-MI Spiritual Advisor.

On Saturday, October 7th, Pastor Paul Clark hosted the LFL of Michigan exhibit at the *"The Body of Christ and the Public Square"* conference hosted by Our Savior Lutheran Church Hartland. Keynote speaker was best-selling author, columnist, and radio talk show host **Dennis Prager**. Other speakers included Senator Patrick Colbeck, Rev. Dr. Jamison J. Hardy [Bishop of the English District of the LCMS] and others. [Photo and caption submitted by Pastor Clark]



...in Michigan?



Lutheran congregations throughout the state of Michigan participated in the Life Chain on Sunday, October 1st giving witness to their communities that we are a church that loves and values all human life...from conception to death...regardless of size or condition. Pictured above are participants from Living Word Plymouth, Trinity Utica, St Luke Clinton Twp, and St Peter Macomb.

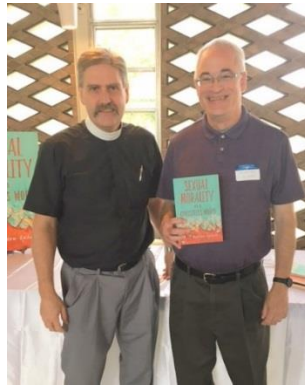


LFL-MI Board members, Susan Hill and Connie Davis, hosted the FOR LIFE exhibit at the Michigan District All Pastors' Conference at Boyne Mountain on October 9th – 10th. Visitors to the exhibit included Tyler Cronkright from Family of God in Detroit, Pastor Sam Watters and his wife Linda from Living Word in Plymouth [chatting with Pastor Paul Clark who will be assuming the position of president pro tem of LFL-MI], and Pastor Bill Wangelin from Our Savior in Lansing.

What's happening in Michigan? continued



The Owen's Mission message and fetal models were recently presented to two Lutheran schools by LFL-MI Lutheran School Coordinator, Chris Schultz. On the L: Zion Lutheran in Auburn on October 10th. Chris was able to meet with the 5 – 8 graders and had time to talk about the Life Issue Contest sponsored by LFL-MI annually. With the small group, the students were able to hold the models. On the R: Trinity Lutheran in Reese on October 11th. After the chapel service, Chris was able to promote the Life Issue Contest to address questions from the students regarding life issues. [Photos and caption information submitted by Chris Schultz]



I was blessed to be able to attend the Lutherans for Life conference in Fort Wayne on September 16th and hear excellent speakers on the theme of Hope for Life. Pastor Scott Licht presented on physician-assisted suicide and encouraged us to remember the sanctity of life and the sovereignty of God. Pastor Matthew Rueger spoke on the hope that we can find by looking at another time in history. The Roman Empire of the first century was also a culture of death. There was infanticide, gladiator games, and martyrdom. Yet it was amidst this culture that Christianity expanded and many people came to the faith. Perhaps we have such an opportunity now also. Next, Dr. Christina Francis told us of immediate hope with the abortion reversal pill. It is safe and highly-effective. In fact, there have been over 300 successes since it was first used in 2011. Let's get the word out! Check out www.drfrancisforlife.com and www.abortionpillreversal.com for more information. Pastor Peter Scaer spoke about "the loss of life and liberty in the pursuit of happiness." Instead of pursuing our own misguided solutions in life, we can find true joy, liberty, and hope for life in Christ. Finally, Pastor Saleminck capped off the event with practical ways we can support the value of life in all stages, supporting the pre-born and their families, adoption, people with disabilities, the elderly, and people at the end of life. There are so many ways we can help others, show them they are loved, and bring them true hope for life now and into eternity in Jesus. I encourage you to check out www.lutheransforlife.org for videos of this event in the upcoming weeks. Thanks be to God for the opportunity of this conference and of serving others FOR LIFE! [Article submitted by Lauren Schaidt, LFL-MI Secretary]

In photos from L: Chris Schultz [LFL-MI Board member], Karen Hoerauf [Loving Arms Macomb County chapter president], Pastor Paul Clark [LFL- Board member] with speaker/author Pastor Matthew Rueger. National LFL Executive Director Pastor Michael Salamink.

Legislative Report

submitted by Pastor Paul Clark

Senator John Proos introduced two bills in Michigan addressing some serious issues regarding medical treatment decision-making that are occurring with increasing frequency. SB 597 will make sure that physicians or hospitals cannot issue orders or make decisions regarding life-sustaining treatment without the consent of the patient or the patient's decision-maker. It's becoming more common that Do-Not-Resuscitate orders (DNRs) are secretly being placed in patient's medical orders without knowledge or consent.

SB 598 deals with how conflicts between medical providers and patients or their decision-maker or family regarding life-sustaining treatment will be resolved. As documented by Right to Life of Michigan News, hospitals have threatened to go to, or even secretly gone to court seeking an "emergency guardian" for the patient, legally bypassing the patient's chosen patient advocate or family members. SB 598 would require notice to patient's and/or their advocates if the hospital intends to take the conflict into court.

Two identical bills will be introduced in the House soon by Representatives Tristan Cole and Jeff Noble. It may take some time before these bills get lined up for a committee hearing. But with the ever-growing number of calls coming into RLM offices about medical decision-making, these bills are moving up on our priority list.

Meet the new editor of *Lifelines*...Jennifer Connelly



Jennifer is a lifelong Lutheran and Michigander. She has been a member of Lutherans for Life for many years and especially appreciates the excellent information the group provides. The youngest of 8 siblings, Jennifer credits her parents for ensuring she have strong Biblical and pro-life values: every stage of life, from conception on, is valuable in God's sight. After attending college and working for an area doctor, Jennifer married Gary in 1987 and began her life's calling as homemaker, homeschooler, and pro-life volunteer. They have been greatly blessed with a beautiful daughter, handsome son-in-law, and recently a delightful grandchild. Jennifer enjoys spending time with her family, reading, and walking up north in the woods and on the beaches with her husband. She makes her home in Monroe, MI and attends East Ida Immanuel Lutheran Church. Jennifer is grateful for this opportunity to serve Lutherans For Life of Michigan and appreciates your prayers and assistance in publishing *Lifelines*.

Upcoming Events in 2017

Now – November 5 – 40 Days For Life Campaign

For more information on locations and times, please go to www.40daysforlife.com

November 11 – Adoption Conference at St Matthew Walled Lake [see information on page 4]

January – **Life Sunday**

Materials can be ordered from National LFL at www.lutheransforlife.org

March 15 – **Life Issues Contest** entries due

May 13 – June 10 – **Annual Statewide Diaper Shower**

Individual diaper tallies/photos should be forwarded to Jennifer Connelly at

734-731-1609 or jensuepooh@gmail.com

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 *

Word of Hope connects men and women 'soul wounded' through the act of abortion to the forgiveness and healing that comes only through knowing that God loves them and sent His Son to free them from the guilt of all sin – including abortion.

Word of Hope ...

LFL's Post Abortion Healing Ministry

Please contact us at

1-888-217-8679

www.word-of-hope.org

help@word-of-hope.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.

Lutherans For Life of Michigan

331 North Sorrell Street Box 317

Fowler, MI 48835



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Notes and Quotes

* "If unborn children are to be protected from death by abortion; if newborn handicapped children are to be protected from death by infanticide; if the elderly, the 'non-productive', the dependent are to be protected from death by euthanasia; and if the sanctity of life is to be affirmed and protected, then our voice is essential...I've learned from Jesus that Christianity is not a spectator sport." [*Jean Garton*, in an article from National Right to Life News Today, 7/8/16]

* Moral disaster has come upon our land and spiritual disaster to our churches. The truth of Christ must be courageously proclaimed to these disasters so the healing of Christ can bring change. [Life Thoughts in the Church Year, LifeDate, Summer 2013, p 29]

* "Because Jesus' love has come into the world, people in despair now have hope." [*Albert Schweitzer*]

* "What dwells and develops in pregnant wombs is no clump of cells, product of conception, parasite, piece of mother's body, or potential anything. This little one is a full-fledged human being, made in the image of God and saved by the incarnation of Jesus Christ, to whom the Holy Spirit shows grace and in whom He creates faith. [*Pastor Michael Salamink*, LifeDate, Summer 2016, p 7]

* My times are in **YOUR** hands. [Psalm 31:15a]

* "Every life is a story to be told. Every life is a parchment crafted by God and purchased by the blood of Jesus upon which He desires to write a story to glorify His name...Abortion does more than destroy a human life. It stops a story. Assisted suicide and euthanasia do more than bring a life to an end. They stop a story. These are stories God wants told, stories through whom He desires to work to touch the lives of others and to extend His rule of truth and grace. These are stories that will accomplish His purpose and bring glory to His name." [*Rev Dr James Lamb*, LifeDate, Summer 2015, p 3]

* "When we care for orphans, through adoption and foster care, and through other kinds of ministries to orphans; when we advocate for children whose lives are in jeopardy through abortion and through other ways, what we are recognizing is that we are doing so as ex-orphans ourselves who have been rescued through the Gospel...There is no such thing as an 'adopted child', only children who were adopted." [*Dr Russell Moore*, author of Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families]

* "In the culture of life, we 'fear and love God, so that we do no bodily harm to our neighbor, but help and befriend him in every need'. This we do for the sick as much as for the healthy, for the weak as much as for the strong, for the old as much as for the young. The culture of life respects the elderly." [*Ryan MacPherson*, LifeDate, Spring 2017, p 7]