

Recent developments in politics and the public arena have led many to consider these days rather gloomy ones for the pro-life movement. Many of the voices coming from our nation's legislative and judicial branches have sought to advance the agenda for abortion rights. In addition, the clamor has never been greater than now for the push for embryonic stem-cell research, despite the fact that such research results in the death of a human being. As Horton the elephant says in the Dr Seuss book "*Horton Hears a Who*" — "a person's a person, no matter how small."

But we need to take heart! The cause is far from lost. Good things do not come easily in a harsh, evil, fallen world. We should not be surprised. After all, we know the effect of sin. We see it in our own lives, our own hearts, and we are not surprised then to see it in the world. But the difference is that we have Christ. That little babe who was "*born for us on earth below*" came to make peace between us and God. He came to forgive us our sins, by taking them upon Himself. He came to die, yes, even for sinners like us. But in so doing He "*rifled Satan's fold*". He robbed Satan of His triumph. Jesus died, but also rose victorious, and now that victory is ours as well. In our baptism into Christ, we *put on* Christ. We *put on* forgiveness. We *put on* righteousness. We *put on* glory, though glory hidden now *under the cross*, and under the strains and trials of this broken world.

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But this One who came to be our Savior is the very **Lord of Life**. He who gives life with His breath and His Word now fights for us as well. He is our hope in life and death. He is the One who is with us in the fight for life. No matter how dark the world may look, or how grim recent developments may be, ***Jesus Christ has come***. The Light has entered the darkness, and pushes it back. Satan will not always have his say. For where the Word of God is, with its Gospel promise of forgiveness of sins in Christ, there is also life and salvation. That means we will *never* lose heart. We will *never* give up this fight for the lives of our babies. We will *never* stop speaking and working for the full protection of all people, born and unborn, babies, the handicapped, the elderly, the sick and dying. So prepare yourself for the long haul. This battle is not over. But we know the ending. ***Satan loses. Remain faithful! Amen!***

Pastor Paul Clark
Spiritual Advisor for LFL-MI

The mission of LFL is to witness to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God.

Lutherans For Life of Michigan believes that the Church is compelled by God's Word to speak and act on behalf of those who are vulnerable and defenseless. The crisis of our time is repudiation of Biblical truth manifested in the wanton destruction of innocent human life through legalized abortion-on-demand, the growing threat to the lives of others through legalized assisted suicide and euthanasia. Therefore, we will strive together, as **Lutherans FOR Life**, to give witness, from a Biblical perspective to the Church and society on these and related issues such as chastity, post-abortion healing and family living.

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THANK YOU...

Carl & Imgard Roggow, *Drummond Island*

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[in memory of David Nickel & Dean Bolio]

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[in honor of Ruthann Bettcher's 60th birthday]

Enid Muhme, *Milford*
[in memory of Elizabeth Ma]

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[in honor of her grandchildren]

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Rev James & Susan Hill, *Mt Clemens*
[in memory of infant Alec Glenn Essenburg]

Laverne Dallmann, Rachelle Gooch & Dan Rohde, *LHNorth*
[in memory of Chris Hoch]

East Ida Immanuel Lutheran Church, *Monroe*



“Dressing for Life: Secrets of the Great Cover-Up”



A purity life-style show using vintage clothing to illustrate God’s Word about clothes, behavior and respect for self and others. Presented by Linda Bartlett, founder of Titus2 for Life and former national president of Lutherans for Life.

Designed for women of all ages: mothers, grandmothers, and especially daughters and their friends.

Sunday, April 15, 2007 at 4:00 pm
St. James Lutheran Church
2040 Oakwood NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Light Meal and Dessert Buffet Provided

RSVP by April 9th, 2007: Karen – 616-942-6888
Norma – 616-942-9456

A freewill offering will be matched by Thrivent



Sponsored by the Grand Rapids Zone LWML and Lutherans for Life



A Titus 2 for Life Retreat

A women's retreat on Biblical womanhood will be held on **Saturday, April 14** from **9:00 am – 2:00 pm in Lowell, Michigan**. Linda Bartlett, founder of Titus 2 For Life and former national president of Lutherans for Life, will lead the retreat.

From Genesis we know that male and female were both created by God, but they were created at different times, in different ways and for different purposes. Using God’s Word, Linda will lead woman away from loud voices to hear the whisper of the Spirit, contrast worldviews (ideas of the world vs ideas of God), build a culture of life through Biblical womanhood, and reconcile sinful people with their Heavenly Father through the mercy of Jesus Christ.

Cost of the retreat is \$20/person and includes a study guide and lunch. For reservations and directions to the retreat, please contact Karen Dierking at 616-942-6888.



PROJECT IDEAS for Life Ministry Coordinators

Bible Studies for Extended Care Facilities

As our elderly population grows, so do the numbers and types of care facilities around us. From self-care apartments, to assisted living communities, to skilled care homes, the need is great to provide volunteer help plus emotional and spiritual care. We would like to share with you a project idea for the spiritual support and encouragement of the residents of these facilities. There is nothing they enjoy more than to join in on the Lord's Prayer, sing a familiar hymn, or hear a Bible story retold.

Two years ago three members of our church took over a Bible study at a secular nursing home. Because the study was established, we did not have to convince the administration it was needed. However, if you are beginning a class you may have to convince them of the need. It should not be difficult because most nursing home facilities are very anxious to have volunteers and activities added to their programs. Just talk with the administrator or activities director and come up with a day and time that works for you, the facility, and the residents. We have found that a 30-40 minute time frame works well for the attention span of nursing home residents. Self care and assisted living residents may want more time.

All types of residents join us, from the very alert to the confused. Most are willing to quietly sit and listen and, of course, some fall asleep!! A restless resident may have to be removed if they are disturbing the rest of the group, but God's Word, the Lord's Prayer, and a familiar hymn touch everyone in some way and generally settle them down. Following is the format we use:

1. Opening prayer by the leader
2. Martin Luther's Morning Prayer and short Psalm (These are typed in large print on the computer and copied for each resident to have so they can join in and read out loud.)
3. Read and discuss a short Bible story, Bible reading, or devotional (These may follow the weekly church service readings, celebrations of the church year or a favorite devotional book you have. We have found that relating the devotional topic to memories of their past brings them into the discussion.)
4. Sing a hymn that is typed in large print and copied for each one. (You do not have to have a piano or be able to play one. We use a CD player and a CD hymn sing-along from Concordia Publishing House entitled "*Faith Sings.*" We also have some extra hymns recorded on CD by a church organist.)
5. Recite the Lord's Prayer out loud together. (There is no need to type anything out here, since they still remember it and love to recite it.)
6. Closing prayer by the leader.
7. Closing hymn.

You may choose your own format and find that something else works for you. However, you will find they truly enjoy worshiping their Lord and Savior even if their eyes get a little heavy. They will greatly appreciate your efforts and you will grow in your faith by serving them. If you have any questions or need any help in establishing this LMC project, please contact Jean Peters at 989-652-2542.

NOTE: Please consider sharing with *LIFELINES* readers an LMC project you are doing in your congregation. Just send us a short article discussing your project, or if you do not care to write an article, send your name, phone number, and project idea and we will call you to inquire about your project and write the article for you. Thanks – the more ideas we share the more all of us can serve the vulnerable and defenseless. Send articles or ideas to Jean Peters, 7409 Maple Road, Frankenmuth, MI 48734

New Cancer-Fighting Vaccine

Perhaps you have seen the ads on television for Gardasil, the new vaccine against cancer of the cervix. Most cases of cervical cancer result from an infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV), which is a sexually transmitted disease. The HPV vaccine will reportedly protect against the viral strains that are responsible for about 70% of cervical cancer cases as well as 90% of genital warts.

Some news about the vaccine:

- * Gardasil will protect against the viral strains that cause most cervical cancers.
- * A federal vaccine advisory panel recommends it for all females ages 11 to 26 years.
- * The vaccine is given in three doses at specific intervals over a period of six months.
- * The expected cost is \$360.
- * Women who have been vaccinated should continue to have an annual Pap test because the vaccine does not protect against the viral strains responsible for 30% of cervical cancers. Neither does it protect against other sexually transmitted diseases.

In the Fall of 2006, a bill that would require all girls entering sixth grade to be vaccinated against cervical cancer was passed by the Michigan Senate. [SB 1417](#), sponsored by Senator Bev Hammerstrom and backed by a bipartisan group of legislators, would allow parents to opt out of the requirement as they can for other vaccinations.

The bill reads as follows:

Section 1177 (3) Beginning with the 2008 school year, the parent or legal guardian of a female child enrolling in grade 6 for the first time in a public or non-public school shall submit to school officials one of the following:

(a) a statement signed by a physician that the child has received the human papillomavirus vaccine

(b) a statement signed by the child's parent or guardian to the effect that the parent or legal guardian has received the information on the connection between the human papillomavirus and cervical cancer, as required under section 9205B of the Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.9205B, and that the parent or legal guardian has elected for the child to not receive the human papillomavirus vaccine.

No action has been taken in 2007.

Since HPV is transmitted not through casual activity but sexual behavior, how can schools justify making the vaccination a requirement of public school attendance? **Creating such a policy may send the message that these interventions make sex "safe" without being accompanied by the instructive primary prevention message that practicing abstinence-until-marriage is the best and surest way to prevent the spread of STDs.**

[Information from Family Research Council's *Washington Update*, 1/5/07; *Parade* magazine, 8/27/06; www.senate.michigan.gov]

What's Happening...

Donna Zuehlk, President of Loving Arms LFL Chapter in Macomb County, presented the topic *Lutherans For Life and Life Issues* at the Sunday Morning Education Hour in several congregations in her area...



October 22 – Christ New Baltimore

November 12 – St Andrew Memphis

November 19 – Our Savior Armada

Donna also presented *Abortion Procedures and Risks* to the staff and volunteers of Compassion Pregnancy Care Center of Macomb at an In-service Training Session on November 16, 2006.

Julie Dau, a sophomore student at Lutheran High North in Macomb County, has volunteered to organize and catalogue the audio/visual resources for Lutherans For Life of Michigan. We thank Julie for her willingness to use her time and talents to assist us in this endeavor.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

January 17 -- Elementary School Chapel at St Paul Lutheran Northville

January 24 – Elementary School Chapel at Trinity Lutheran Port Huron

January 31 – Elementary School Chapel & Primary Classroom Presentations at St Peter Lutheran Macomb

February 11 – LFL-MI Board of Directors Meeting at St Matthew Holt

February 12-13 – Pre-School Chapel at St Peter Lutheran Macomb

February 18 – LFL Exhibit for Mission & Ministry Fair at Grace Coopersville

April 14 – Titus 2 Retreat in Lowell (see page 3)

April 15 – Dressing For Life Style Show at St James Grand Rapids (see page 3)

May 6 – LFL-MI Board of Directors Meeting at St Matthew Holt

July 6-8 – NATIONAL LFL CONFERENCE in Omaha, Nebraska (see page 9)

...in Michigan?



Are you planning a
MINISTRY FAIR
or do you need a
SPECIAL EVENTS
SPEAKER

for your congregation?



Lutherans for Life of Michigan

would love to be a part of your Ministry Fair or provide a speaker on Life Issues, including: Euthanasia, Abortion, Advance Directives, Pregnancy Care Centers, and End of Life Care.

Contact: Connie Davis

Phone: 586-949-9261

Email: lflmi@comcast.com

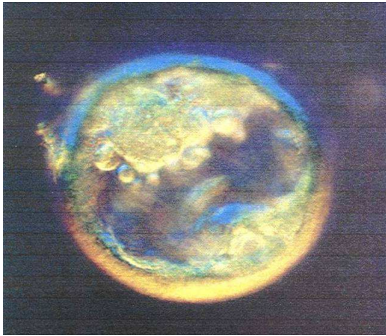
A Grateful 'Thank You' to our Faithful Supporters

by Gary Peters, Treasurer of Lutherans for Life of Michigan

Lutherans for Life of Michigan is blest to have hundreds of faithful friends regularly pray for us and financially support us throughout the year. Many faithful friends support us through prayer, which is a true blessing as we daily confront the battles of the LIFE issues. Faithful supporters also provide us with the needed financial gifts to help us educate the people of Michigan on the ever-changing LIFE battleground. In addition to the many individual gifts we receive, churches and schools provide funds from church envelope contributions, school chapel programs and service projects. Also, very popular recently is the memorial or honorarium program where we acknowledge the donor's gift with a personal response expressing the donor's kindness or concern to the person named. Regardless of the type or amount, all prayers and gifts are treasured by Lutherans for Life of Michigan and are instrumental to the continuing success of our mission and ministry. On behalf of the "all-volunteer" ministry of Lutherans for Life of Michigan, I would like to thank our supporters for their prayers and gifts that strengthen our resolve to give witness to the sanctity of all human LIFE, from conception to natural death.

To God be the Glory!

Embryos are Humans, but...



Ironically, the day after the U.S. Domestic Policy Council admitted that embryos are human beings, the House of Representatives approved a bill forcing taxpayers to fund embryonic stem cell research that involves the destruction of human life. The House vote, however, was well short of overcoming a veto promised by President Bush. House members approved the legislation, HR 3, on a 253-174 vote with Democrats supporting it 216-16 and Republicans opposing it 158-37. The vote was 32 shy of the two-thirds majority needed to overturn a presidential veto of the measure.

Some 238 members of the House voted for the measure last year and this year's vote shows backers of the research, which has never helped any patients, gained 15 supporters. The passage of HR 3 means that fewer dollars will be available for research that has a proven track record of treating patients who suffer from things like heart disease and cancer.

The “*Advancing Stem Cell Science Without Destroying Human Life*” report from the Domestic Policy Council states that the only differences between embryos and other human beings are accidental differences in levels of development.

“Embryos are humans in their earliest developmental stage,” writes the Council. “We do not have to think that human embryos are exactly the same in all ways as older humans to believe that they are entitled to respect and protection. Each of us originated as a single-celled embryo, and from that moment have developed along a continuous biological trajectory throughout our existence. To speak of ‘an embryo’ is to designate a human being at a particular stage.”

The report condemns the destruction of human embryos for the purpose of stem-cell research, and instead advocates alternative sources of stem-cells, including cells derived from amniotic fluid and adult stem-cells.

The Executive Summary reads, “In sum, it increasingly appears that the qualities researchers value in embryonic cells may also exist in other stem cells that are easier to procure, more stable to grow, safer to use in therapies, and free of the ethical violations of embryo destruction.” Therefore, “There is no reason to sacrifice longstanding moral concerns in a shortsighted rush for therapeutic payoffs.”

However, the report does not indicate that any action will be taken in the future towards what might seem as the logical conclusion of the admitted humanity of the embryo – that is, a federal ban not only on the funding of but on the performance of all embryonic stem-cell research, including that which is privately-funded.

The report concludes saying, “there has been tremendous scientific progress of late in exploring methods of deriving pluripotent stem cells without destroying embryos...With continued support for non-destructive alternatives, new developments will continue to unfold in this field in the years to come, holding the potential for innovative progress toward new medical cures, while at the same time upholding human dignity and the sanctity of innocent life.”

[Information from FRCs *Washington Update*, January 11, 2007; and *LifeNews.com*, January 12, 2007]

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.”

Matthew 25:40



25th National Lutherans For Life Conference
July 6-8, 2007
Omaha, Nebraska

Is it time for the conference already? Not quite, but now is the time to start making your plans to be a part of an inspiring weekend in Omaha, Nebraska on July 6-8, 2007.

Visit the Lutherans For Life website at www.lutheransforlife.org to download the 2007 Conference Witness Book Sponsorship Form. The money raised through these sponsorships helps LFL pay many conference related expenses and keeps registration fees as low as possible.

The conference committee is working on new and exciting ways for families to participate in the national conference. Some of the things we have planned are:

- * educational workshops for parents and teenagers
- * an *Answers in Genesis* workshop for younger children with stories and arts & crafts
- * servant events for the whole family to help you put your faith into action

Confirmed speakers include:

Dr David Menton [Answers in Genesis] - Author, speaker, Prof Emeritus, Washington School of Medicine (St Louis)

Buddy Davis [Answers in Genesis] - Author, adventurer, illustrator, singer/songwriter, sculptor

Linda Bartlett – [LFL Word of Hope] - Director of Outreach, author, speaker, former President of LFL

Grace Kern – [LFL Word of Hope] - Director

Rev Dr Francis Monseth [Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary] – Dean and Professor

Rev Dr Eugene Boe [Lutheran Brethren Seminary] - Academic Dean and Professor of Systematic & Historical
Theology

Rev Dr Dean Wenthe [Concordia Theological Seminary Ft Wayne] - President and Professor of Exegetical Theology

Rev Dr Wallace Schulz – [[Lutheran Heritage Foundation](http://www.lutheranheritagefoundation.org)] - Evangelist, former Lutheran Hour speaker, senior editor
of *Good News*

Make plans now to attend this family-friendly event!
To keep updated on conference details, visit www.lutheransforlife.org

2006 ProLife Legislation Passed in Michigan

S.B. 1292 was unanimously passed in the House on 12/13/06, creating some important updates to the Safe Delivery Act (or “Abandoned Baby” law) which RtL-MI originally spearheaded in 2000. The law has been utilized to protect babies in at least 3 dozen cases.

Also passed on the final day of session (12/14/06) was a **six-bill package of legislation promoting the collection and use of umbilical cord blood stem cells**. The bills would create a statewide network for cord blood stem cell banks, promote more donation of cord blood, create a tax credit for charitable gifts to cord blood banks, and open the way for cord blood banks to compete for some critical state funding. Unfortunately, a bill to provide \$5 million in funding was eliminated from the package as the state is currently facing another year of deficits. We will be looking for some creative funding options immediately in the next session.

Throughout the movement of this package, the Governor's staff has publicly reiterated her support for embryonic stem cell research, and there is some speculation that she may veto the package because it does not equally promote such research. It remains to be seen what the Governor will do.

The highlight of our legislative success this session came with the passage and signing of **H.B. 4446**, the Ultrasound Viewing bill. This law requires abortionists to give every woman considering an abortion the option to see a live image of her baby on the ultrasound screen, and receive a photo printout of the image if she desires.

Another success came with the passage of **S.B. 1176**, which creates a Michigan Income Tax credit for families who suffer a stillbirth after 20 weeks of pregnancy. These families have medical and often funeral expenses with these late pregnancy losses. The new law allows the family to claim the baby as a dependent for the tax year in which the stillbirth occurred. While the refundable amount does not really compensate for the real financial costs, it provides some relief and more importantly, acknowledges that the child was a real member of that family. This “official” acknowledgment of the child is deeply appreciated by the families.

A final bill that was enacted into law was **H.B. 4777**, which provided clarification to a law RtL-MI initiated in 1998. Along with our Prenatal Protection Act, we passed a law allowing families to sue a person whose assault or negligence resulted in a pregnant woman losing her unborn baby. For entirely indefensible legal reasons, some of these cases were thrown out by individual judges who completely misinterpreted the law. In order to permanently end that problem, H.B. 4777 clarified all the conditions under which the lawsuits can be brought. We expect no future court misinterpretations.

[RtL-MI Legislative Office *Capitol Notes* December 15, 2006]

Abortions Down in Michigan

According to recently released statistics, the number of abortions performed in Michigan decreased in 2005 compared to 2004. The report from the Michigan Department of Community Health states that 25,209 abortions were performed in Michigan during 2005 compared to 26,269 in 2004, a decrease of 4 percent. This represents a dramatic 48.7 percent decrease since 1987. This is the second year in a row that abortions in Michigan have dropped and the lowest annual total of reported abortions in Michigan since abortion providers were required to report information in 1979.

[Right to Life of Michigan website]

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, 1120 South G Ave., Nevada, IA 50201-2778
1-888-364-LIFE * (515) 382-3020 * E-mail: info@lutheransforlife.org *
WebSite: www.lutheransforlife.org

Audio/DVD/Video Tape Library

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE OF MICHIGAN has a lending library of audio/video tapes, CDs and DVDs that are available to congregations, organizations and individuals upon request.

To reserve a resource, or to request a catalogue of media resources available, please contact LFL of Michigan at 586-949-9261 or email lflmi@comcast.net

Stem Cells: Beyond Hype Real Hope [6 minute DVD] Produced by Family Research Council.

An excellent discussion of the two types of stem cell research... embryonic stem cell research (which has evidenced no successes), and adult stem cell research (which has produced many successful medical treatments).

Stem Cell Research and Cloning 101: A Primer [37 minute DVD plus Discussion Guide] Produced by

Lutherans For Life Inc and hosted by Rev Dr James Lamb, Executive Director of LFL. He says, "I want to make it clear from the beginning that this presentation is not going to be complicated and hard to understand. I will be presenting the basics of stem cell research and cloning. There are two reasons for that. First, I am not a scientist or an expert in these areas so I cannot make it complicated! Second, all we need to know are the basics. Once we understand the basic biology involved, we will be able to apply God's Word to these technologies—and God's Word is where we want to begin."

Change Service Requested



Notes ‘n Quotes

* “Do you know who the truly handicapped people are? They are the ones – and many of them are Christians – who [go through their morning activities] on automatic pilot without stopping once to acknowledge their Creator.”
[*Joni Eareckson Tada*]

* “Although the threads of my life have often seemed knotted, I know, by faith, that on the other side of the embroidery there is a crown.”
[*Corrie ten Boom*]

* “To care for the sick and old and dying through the last days of their journey through life is the very mark of civilization itself...Our interdependence is part of our humanity, and indeed, our civilization...We are all burdens upon each other at various cycles of our lives; but we grow in bearing one another’s burdens and draw enlightenment and wisdom from the experience.” [*Mary Kenny*, Irish journalist]

* “How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.”
[*George Washington Carver*, U.S. agricultural chemist]

* Éuthanasia treats people as disposable objects. All...should be concerned...even frightened by the possibilities.” [*Jean Echlin RN*, palliative care specialist]

* “Human embryos are not potential human beings but human beings with potential...Have we not yet learned that devaluing one group of human beings for the alleged benefit of others is a price we simply cannot afford to pay?”
[*Dr Andrew Fergusson*, president of Council on Bioethics and Human Dignity]

* “...politicians have used embryos as a political football, endorsing science that has done far more harm to life than good to patients. As viable and ethical alternatives to destructive embryonic stem cell research grow, so too should opposition on Capitol Hill to taxpayer-funded research that destroys human embryos.”
[*Tony Perkins*, FRC Washington Update, 1/8/07]

* “To build a culture of life we must also ensure that scientific advances always serve human dignity, not take advantage of some lives for the benefit of others.” [*President George W Bush*, in his Sate of the Union Address, 1/05]

* “Abortion after rape is misdirected anger. It doesn’t punish the perpetrator of the crime, or prevent further assaults against other women.”
[*Serrin Foster*, president of Feminists for Life of America]

* “Well-meaning people often say to me, ‘I couldn’t live being blind. I couldn’t do it.’ I step back, little alarm bells go off, and I think, ‘Because you couldn’t, then I shouldn’t?’” [*Peg Moore*, RtL-MI News, Fall 2006]