



Lutherans for Life of Illinois

AFFIRMING LIFE IN ILLINOIS

You have a newsletter!

Lutherans for Life of Illinois, (that would be YOU,) now have a newsletter. Need to give a shout out to other For Life Lutherans? Here is the place to do so! Need prayer for an upcoming Life Event? This is the place to ask! Frustrated by a brick wall your life efforts seem to be hitting? Maybe another of us has scaled that wall. This is a place for information sharing that will help us get where we need to be in our efforts to serve the Lord of Life. Ready to celebrate Life and want someone who delights in your joy? You'll

find them here!

We each have a particular community to serve, a particular life ministry area where we make a difference, and a uniquely gifted and blessed congregation where God has placed us.

What we have in common is a passion for His gift of Life and a Gospel motivated desire to protect those who are vulnerable. This is where we build community around that shared passion. I will be contacting you from time to time to ask for your input. You don't have to wait for that call or email, though. If you have

something to share at any time, call (815-736-6249) or email

laeschfamily@gmail.com

Colossians 4:6

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

May God grant salty, grace-filled speech to us all!

LOVE AFFIRMS LIFE!

Thanks to Deb Lakamp and Outgoing Board Members

Thank you, Deb, for serving the Lord with gladness President of the LFL of IL board for the past five years and for serving the Lord on the board for the prior five years and now again on the board as a member! Deb also headed up the LFL booths with her husband Pastor Bruce

Lakamp at NID, CID and SID pastoral conventions and IL teacher district conventions and LWML conventions for the past five years.

Thank you, Jeanne Strubbe, for serving the Lord as past President of the LFL of IL board for 6 years and for serving as a

board member for many years. Thank you, Sandy Goss, for serving on the LFL of IL board for 30 years, and for serving as the coordinator of the IL LFL Essay Contest for 25 years and again this year serving as the coordinator of the National LFL Essay Contest. "Well done, good and faithful servants" (Matthew 25:21).

Lutherans for Life of Illinois Newsletter

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Coming up in Illinois

- © March 29th Opening of the "Unplanned" movie. Check with local theatres for screen times or search <https://unplannedtickets.com/>
- © April 13, Candlelit Prayer Vigil in Champaign, see p. 2 for details.
- © May 6-8 CID Spring Pastor's Conference, St. Paul's, Decatur
- © May 7, 2019 SID Spring Pastors' Conference, Todd Hall, Colombia, IL.
- © NID Pastors' Conference May 21-22, Concordia Chicago.
- © Illinoisans planning to travel to Wisconsin in May, you won't want to miss "Enjoy Spring with Pastor Salemink"! Check their website, <http://www.lfl-wi.org/enjoy-spring-2019>
- © June 9, 2019, 2 PM Memorial for little ones gone too soon at Cross Lutheran Church, Yorkville, IL.

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Life Comes in Chapters

Do churches in your area hold annual craft shows? These could prove to be a great venue for sharing life-affirming information with a variety of people.

St. John's Lutheran School of Red Bud, Illinois holds an annual Christmas Craft Fair in November. The Southwestern Illinois Chapter of Lutherans for Life has hosted a booth at this event every year. Jennifer Becker-Roscow shared a picture with us and explained the game they play with kids who stop by. Each child is asked to grab a strip of paper with a question on it. Then they find the answer

on one of the posters. Once they have answered the question correctly, they get a small prize. Questions have to do with stages of development. The fetal models are also prominently displayed, allowing for pre-birth development education. Jennifer says, "I love when a pregnant mom comes to our booth with her children, and I get to show how big the baby sibling is at that time. The kids are amazed at how the models look like a baby."



Go Team!

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Altamont, Illinois has 30 members in their Life Team. They began ministry in February of 2018 by asking their Pastor how they could help him. He said he needed help keeping track of high school and college students from their church. 3 members of the Life team have a program to keep in contact with the students monthly.

The school has been equipped with the "Teaching for Life" program to help children learn about the value of life. The school also has the 'Owen's Mission' Gestation Models to help the teachers with the program. A new cabinet is being built to display the models at the entrance of the school. Activities at the school will give everyone a chance to see the models.

Other Life Team activities have included fundraisers that allowed the team to send 2 teenagers and an adult chaperone from Immanuel to the Annual Right to Life March in Washington, D.C., donate to the Life-Song for Orphans fund, and National Lutherans for Life.

Wow! This team hit the ground running! May God continue what He has begun here!

Here and There Around the State

On March 2nd, the Northern Illinois District Life Task Force hosted a workshop to help individuals tell the truth in love when dealing with those who have a same sex attraction. Pastor Tom Eckstein, of Jamestown North Dakota, was the presenter.

Central Illinois District of LCMS is seeking a Life Ministry Coordinator, as Pastor Ross has accepted a call to Missouri. Please keep them in prayer as they seek to



fill this important position for the carrying out of Life Ministry.

Mr. Jeffery Fick reports that the Southern Illinois District LCMS recently celebrated life with a Sanctity of Human Life Service at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Collinsville. Activities for the day included a memorial for

children lost through miscarriage, with a message from Pastor Mark

Surburg of Good Shepherd, Marion. Children were invited to carry material offerings they had collected for the Mosaic Pregnancy and Health Center to the altar. The service was followed by a reception. This event was hosted by the Life Team of Good Shepherd, Collinsville.

Coming Up: On April 13th, a candlelit prayer vigil will mark the end of the 40 Days for Life Lenten Prayer Campaign in Champaign. This will be held at 302 East Stoughton Street in Champaign, in front of Planned Parenthood. For more info, Contact Renee at reneemullen1@comcast.net

Roots...getting at the roots of what we see on the surface

How do we deal with life's disappointments?

Disappointment is common to all ages. When dealt with poorly, it results in deep roots of bitterness that lead to the unthinkable.

Growing children face disappointments. Recently a girl at our school had to wear something other than her favorite color to play intramural basketball. Her response was to sit down and cry. Disappointment needn't have kept her out of the game, but it did.

In a nearby city, a man was called to the HR department ...again. This time he was fired. He pulled out a gun and began shooting people., killing many.

He was disappointed, but there were other ways to deal with it.

Many parents today are hearing words they never thought they would hear..."Mom, Dad, I'm pregnant." And they are considering things they never thought they would, like calling Planned Parenthood and making an appointment. They are disappointed but there are better choices!

Around the world, babies are learning to walk. They let go of a coffee table and take a few wobbly steps. They fall, but they get up and try again. The disappointment of the moment does not stop them from achieving the mobility they were created to

have.

There is a faith element in dealing with disappointment. Faith believes a closed door can lead to a better opening; believes that stumbling does not mean you will never walk; believes that children are gifts from God, regardless of how they come; believes that He knows, cares, and that it will be better than ok...because He does. As Gospel Motivated Voices for Life, let's help one another and others face disappointment with childlike faith! Disappointment doesn't have to lead to death! It can result in first steps of faith.

"Let the little children come to me, for of such is the Kingdom of God!"

LifeSong for Orphans

Lutherans for Life of Illinois is working toward a new life-affirming project for Lutheran families in the state of Illinois. Adoption is an expensive endeavor. Due to the high costs many couples do not consider adoption as an option in growing their families. The LFL of IL Board would like to help meet this need for families who have a desire to adopt. We are partnering with Lifesong For Orphans ministry to create an adoption

fund to be made available to LCMS families in Illinois who need financial assistance as they go through the adoption process. Thanks be to God, the fund has grown. We are asking for more Life Chapters, Teams, churches and schools to partner with us to grow this fund. Families looking to adopt can submit an application for an adoption grant and Lifesong will review the application. Then Lifesong will give the LFL of IL a recommenda-

tion of the amount that could be granted to the adoptive family according to their financial needs. Here is a video link with more information about Lifesong for Orphans:

<https://vimeo.com/139492632>

password is **lifesong**). If you have any questions or are interested in helping in this project, you may contact Valerie Boehne, at 309-210-4747.

Tailored Affirmation... For the Pro Life Generation

The Life Team at Immanuel Altamont sponsored 2 teenagers to attend the March for Life on Washington. What a great idea! Have you considered how your youth can be encouraged to affirm life?

Why not sponsor youth delegates and their chaperones to the Regional LFL Conference? Maybe arrangements could be made to have the youth dele-

gates give a five minute report back to the congregation upon their return. This is, as Students for Life would say, "The Pro Life Generation." Parents, have you asked your teens if they would like to accompany you to pray for an end to abortion? What about inviting teens to a Life Team meeting so they can help plan a fundraiser for your local pregnancy help

center or for another Life Affirming cause you support.

You could host a Y4Life Servant Event at your congregation and give young people the opportunity to serve area Life-affirming organizations. Check in with Lutherans for Life to find out how:

www.lutheransforlife.org or call Lutherans for Life at 888-364-5433.

THANKS FOR YOUR GIFTS!

We really appreciate your support! Let's keep the Life-affirming attitude and share the love God has for us and all people. Let's gently give the word of forgiveness to those who are hurting and those who have hurt us...because love affirms life!

Lutherans in our state are disappointed and upset that so many in our society are continuing to cast little humans aside ... May God make us into Gospel-motivated voices for life!

Thanks be to God that He has paved the way through Christ for the gift of forgiveness and for us to belong to Him!

A Joyous Easter to you all!
(Inspired by LFL-Kansas Newsletter)

Lutherans for Life of Illinois is a State Federation of Lutherans for Life, a 501c3 charitable organization dedicated to equipping Lutherans for becoming Gospel Motivated Voices for Life. We are on the web at <https://www.lutheransforlife.org/lfl-of-illinois/>

Send news items and prayer requests to the editor at: laeschfamily@gmail.com

Let your love affirm Life with Lutherans For Life

___Yes! I want to join LFL...

Please select membership category

___Annual ___\$35 ___\$50 ___\$75 ___Other

Any amount is welcome!

Note: Membership Contributions are shared with LFL Chapters and State Federations.

___ Sponsor: I commit to a monthly gift of ___.

___I' not interested in membership, but am enclosing a contribution of ___ to support the work of LFL.

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Congregation_____

Church body ___AALC ___AFLC ___CLBA ___ELCA ___LCMS ___Other

Send to: Lutherans for Life, 1120 South G Avenue, Nevada IA 50201-2774

Or donate online at www.lutheransforlife.org

Prayer and Praise

1. Please pray that our nation begins to recognize, respect, and remember the sanctity of all human life- born and unborn."
2. Pray that God would raise up those He wants to use as Gospel Motivated voices for Life throughout our state to join us in Lutherans for Life.
3. Pray that God would bless each of our Life Teams, Chapters, and Life Ministry Coordinators with wisdom, courage, and vitality beyond all reason as they serve Him. May He give us a heart to pray for one another routinely, as we "serve the Lord (together) with gladness"! PS. 100:2.
4. Pray for those who are at this very moment facing Life and Death decisions. Pray that God would move them to choose Life.
5. Praise God for the gift of Life and for the gift of eternal life bought for us at the Cross of Calvary. Thank God for the resurrection of our Lord and the wonderful promise of Life Everlasting!
6. Pray for families who are considering adoption and those who serve them. May our efforts with Lifesong for Orphans be blessed with the fruit of Godly homes and families for children!
7. Pray that our new board members will quickly grasp the direction God might choose to lead our State Federation of LFL.
8. Pray that we would be able to help our children learn to deal with disappointment and that we could be kind and supportive of others facing disappointment, helping them find a Life-affirming response.
9. Pray for our pastors during this spring season of Pastor's Conferences! May they be renewed in strength, filled with wisdom, and granted courage to speak the Word of Life as they minister to our congregations!
10. Pray for those serving alongside others in Pregnancy Centers, Nursing Homes, Adoption Agencies, Voice of Care, and LifeSong for Orphans, that God would renew their strength and love.



" I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers "