

IN THE HANDS OF GOD

In the Hands of God was the theme for the national LFL Conference held in Omaha, NE on July 6-8. National LFL President Diane Schroeder wrote the following article in the Conference Book:

“In the Hands of God... What does this phrase mean?”

There are many scriptural references to the hand of God that are used to demonstrate God’s nature ...particularly in how He relates to us, His people.

- * The Father’s hands created and shaped us.
- * Through the bloodied hands of Jesus we are redeemed.
- * God’s hands are powerful and deliver us from our enemies.
- * Even if we are all alone, God will never forget us; we are engraved on His hands.
- * God opens His hand and provides for our every need.

What a comfort it is to know that when life issues assault us, God’s hand is always there. When facing an unplanned pregnancy, I know that God’s hand created my baby for a purpose. When caring for my loved ones who are suffering, I know that God’s hands are providing for all of our

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needs. When selfishly I question the value of microscopic, handicapped, old, or imperfect people, I know that Jesus’ hands were bloodied for them as well as for me. When I face death, the ultimate enemy of life, I know that God will hold me in His hand and bring me safely home.

As my fellow LFLers, I know that you understand the role of God’s hands in our lives. Our challenge is to equip our fellow Christians so that they can stand up to the storms of life knowing that their lives are “In the Hand of God”. I pray that God will give us the knowledge, demeanor, stamina, and perseverance to truly make a difference in the lives of the people around us whom He loves. What a blessing for me to serve with you in the ministry of Lutherans For Life!”

Serving with His hands,
Diane E Schroeder

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...

William Schultz, *Traverse City*

Pastor William & Lucille Grafe, *Orchard Lake*

Robert & Nancy Marutz, *Wayland*

William Wing, *DeWitt*
[in memory of Judith Eileen 'Nanny' Dyer]

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[in memory of brother, Tom Bosworth]

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[in memory of Anna Leaf]

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[in memory of Florence Moyle]

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Richard & Mary Ann Krafft Jr, *Frankenmuth*

Joseph & Doris Bates, *Muskegon*

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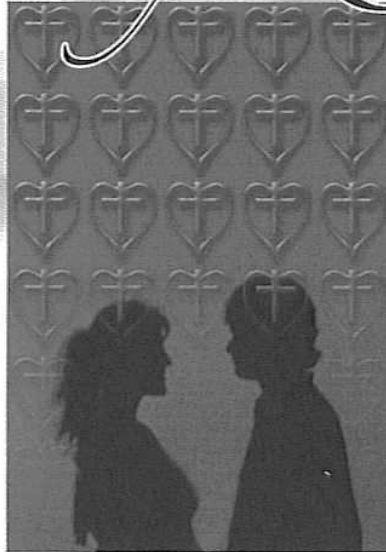
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, *Lewiston*

Heart to Heart LFL Chapter, *Livingston County*

The communities of *Port Hope* and *Harbor Beach*
[who raised funds through weekend Bake Sales]

Ralph & Ruth List, *Frankenmuth*

Discovering Real Love Purity Rally



Our Savior Lutheran Church presents:

Pastor Bill Yonker

A program for teens (grades 8 - 12), youth leaders, and parents

November 11th, 2007 from 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

1601W. Holmes Rd. Lansing Michigan 48910

\$5.00 includes the program, pizza & pop

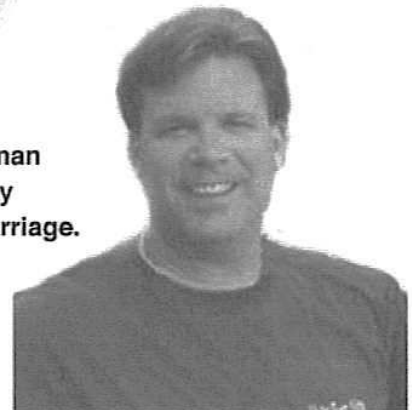
Call 517-507-5870 to register

Balanced Sexuality, A Christian's View: Delaying God's Gift While Delighting In God's Gift

God's good gift of sex is to be shared only after a man and a woman are in committed marriage. The balance is to see sex and sexuality as a gift but to delay the expressing of the intimacy until after marriage.

"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is pure and blameless until the day of Christ."

Philippians 1:9-10



Registration: \$7 at the door
Visit the website www.oursaviorshurch.org



PROJECT IDEA from Pastor Paul Clark, St Paul Fowler...

HOLD YOUR OWN LIFE SUNDAY ESSAY- WRITING CONTEST

It is the mission of *Lutherans For Life* to educate and inform the members of our congregations of the various issues and challenges in our society that confront us as pro-life Christians. It is especially important that we also reach the young people of our churches with this message. One of the ways that this can be accomplished is for a congregation to hold a **Life Sunday Essay Writing Contest**. We have done this now for the past ten years or so and it has become an eagerly anticipated event here at St Paul Lutheran in Fowler.

Each congregation can develop its own contest, but I will briefly share with you what has worked well for us. Around October or November, I distribute guidelines for the essay-writing contest to each eighth-grader in confirmation class. They are to write an essay on either sexual purity or chastity, **or** on any pro-life issue such as abortion, euthanasia, or embryonic stem-cell research. The main purpose of the essay is not just to list facts about the particular topic, but to apply God's Word to it, and to make a case for the pro-life position. The students are encouraged to read up on the topic, talk to parents and others for input, and make good use of their Bible and catechism. The essay is to be kept to approximately 500 words.

The essays are turned in to me two weeks before Life Sunday, so that I have time to talk to the student about any major corrections or modifications. When Life Sunday comes, we have a special breakfast (*made and served by our Life Group members and Sunday School teachers*) following the service. A free-will offering taken for the breakfast is donated to a pro-life organization, such as our local crisis pregnancy center. Following the breakfast, a couple of our Life Group members and I speak a few minutes on pro-life updates. Then, after everyone gets second helpings of breakfast, we introduce the essay contest.

Three judges have been previously selected from the congregation who are unrelated to any of the contestants. They are seated at a special table and provided with special forms for judging the essays. I then read one of the essays without telling who wrote it (I just refer to it as *Essay #1*). After the judges have a couple of minutes to fill out their forms I proceed to read the next essay, and so on, until all have been read. The judges are then dismissed while they add up their scores. When they return we announce the Third Place, Second Place, and First Place winners. Amounts of prizes are determined ahead of time by our Life Group. We make sure, however, that everyone gets some prize. Then we pose the students with the judges and pastor for pictures, and then dismiss with prayer and singing the Doxology.

The congregation has come to love this event and looks forward to it. Our students have an opportunity to think through many of the pro-life issues, which is a great benefit to them, and the congregation is also informed and educated by hearing them. Combined with the breakfast, this makes Life Sunday a *very special day* for the church.

Of course, you can adapt this in any way to fit your congregation. This is just one possible way of doing something like this. But a **Life Issues Essay Writing Contest** is a valuable thing for confirmation age students and congregation members alike. It is one of the ways we can better hold these important teachings of our Lord concerning sexual purity, chastity, and the sanctity of human life before the eyes of our people, that we may truly defend and uphold the treasure we have in God's Eternal Word.

Winner of the 2007 LFL-MI Purity Project was Lillian Schmidt from St Peter Lutheran School Hemlock.

Great Grand Rapids Area LFL Chapter Events



A retreat on Biblical womanhood was held on Saturday, April 14 in Lowell. Linda Bartlett, former national president of Lutherans For Life, was the retreat leader. Linda [far right] is pictured with several ladies who attended the retreat.

Grand Rapids Zone LWML and Greater Grand Rapids LFL co-sponsored a purity lifestyle show that used vintage clothing to illustrate what God's Word says about clothing, behavior, and respect for self and others. Linda Bartlett and Judy Hayen produce and present this *Dressing For Life Style Show* throughout the Midwest states. Pictured at right are several models who participated in the Grand Rapids style show.



Greater Grand Rapids Lutherans For Life invites you to attend their Annual Banquet

Sunday, October 7, 2007

St Matthew Lutheran Church

5125 Cascade Road, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

5:30 pm Appetizers

6:00 pm Dinner

Guest Speaker:

The Rev Dr James Lamb

Executive Director of National Lutherans For Life

Topic:

Stem Cell Research and BioTechnology

Tickets are \$15.00 per person

For reservations contact or mail your reservations to...

Lynda Lueders, 2180 Innwood Drive SE, Kentwood, MI 49508

or call (616) 455-8702 by September 30

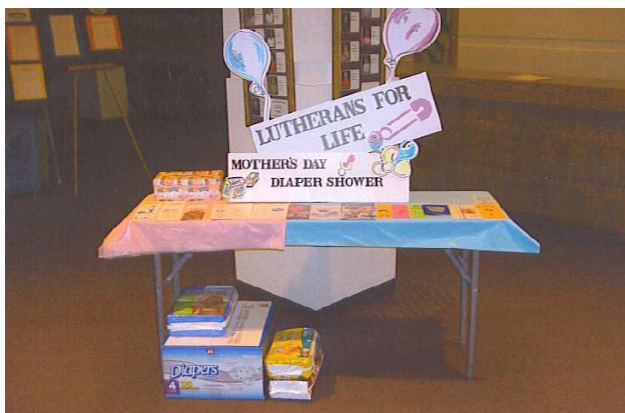
What's Happening...



Christ the King Lutheran in Southgate



Grace Lutheran in Coopersville



Holy Cross Lutheran in Jenison

2007 StateWide Diaper Shower

The following congregations participated in the 2007 Statewide Diaper Shower...

- Our Savior Scottville
- St Peter & Paul Hancock
- Christ the King Southgate
- Heart of the Shepherd Howell
- Shepherd of the Lakes Brighton
- Our Savior Hartland
- St Michael Richville
- Grace Coopersville
- Redemption Sterling Heights
- Holy Cross Jenison*
- Emmanuel Britton*
- St John Grand Haven
- St Timothy Otisville
- Our Redeemer Muskegon
- St Peter Hemlock
- Guardian Dearborn
- Mt Olive Grand Rapids
- Redford Evangelical Detroit*
- Redeemer Grand Rapids
- St Martin Birch Run*
- Our Savior Union City
- St John Fraser
- St Peter Macomb
- St John Adrian
- Immanuel Macomb
- St James Montague
- St John Bay City
- St John Port Hope*
- Trinity Arcadia
- Trinity Sturgis*
- Peace Saginaw*
- St Paul Albion
- Drummond Island Drummond Island
- St Matthew Holt
- Our Savior Lansing
- St Paul Fowler
- Our Savior Grand Rapids
- St Paul Colon

...in Michigan?

Diaper Shower cont'd...

How many congregations participated in the shower? How many diapers were collected?

The 36 congregations listed on page 6 called in diaper tallies.

From these 36 churches, a total of 31,471 diapers were collected and donated to various pregnancy care centers throughout the state of Michigan.

* designates congregations who participated for the first time.



Granddaughters of Kathi Strahl, the LMC at St James Lutheran Montague, pose in front of the diapers donated by the members of their congregation



Our Savior Lutheran Lansing



Thank you!

Gary Peters, Treasurer of LFL-MI, is pictured with Pastor Paul Herter of Hope Lutheran Church in Adrian at the South & East Pastors Conference in Frankenmuth on May 15 – 16



What's Happening.....in Michigan? continued...



LFL-MI President Connie Davis hosted the LFL exhibit at a Health Fair hosted by St John Ray on June 9. Pictured at left, in front of the exhibit, is Darla Steeh, Life Ministry Coordinator at St John.

Donna Zuehlk, president of Loving Arms LFL Chapter in Macomb County, presents the DVD *Stem Cell Research and Cloning 101: A Primer* to residents at the Presbyterian Village Nursing Care/Assisted Living Facility in New Baltimore on June 25. The presentation was arranged by Marion Teschler, an active member of LFL who now resides in the Village.



Loving Arms LFL Chapter of Macomb County and LFL of Michigan
are co-sponsoring a special event for Life Ministry Coordinators, Pastors & other interested persons

“Bloom Where You Are Planted”

Saturday, September 22, 2007

St Peter Lutheran Church, 17051 – 24 Mile Road, Macomb, MI 48042

10:00 am – 12 noon

THE EVENT IS FREE. Coffee and breakfast breads will be served.
Free life resources will be given to every congregation who is represented.
Please respond to Connie at 586-949-9261 or lflmi@comcast.net by September 8

A Life Ministry Coordinator Report

by Linda Finkel
St John Lutheran Port Hope

I would like to thank the people of Port Hope/Harbor Beach for their very generous support of our recent Lutherans For Life fundraiser. It started as a simple Diaper Shower at St John Lutheran Church in the month of May, and from there, Kathy Gephardt and Benita Lawes headed up a Bake Sale for two consecutive Saturdays in Port Hope and then in Harbor Beach. The response was more than generous and I thank everyone who contributed in any way...The children of St John Lutheran School in Port Hope added more \$\$ by selling red roses for their mothers. The diapers and money will be donated to a women's pregnancy center to help mothers who have decided to keep their babies and need the extra support...Again, thank you to all who participated in this very good cause. Many women and their babies will be helped through your generosity. God's Blessings.

[This article is an excerpt of a letter written to and published in *The Harbor Beach Times*, by Life Ministry Coordinator Linda Finkel, June 27, 2007]



Kathy Gephardt and Benita Lawes hosting a Bake Sale in Port Hope on Memorial Day weekend.



Children, from St John Lutheran School Port Hope who helped with the Mother's Day Rose Sale, gather around the diaper collection from their church.

[L to R] Otyllia Abraham, Morissa Schave, Brittany Schave, Brett Abraham, Kendra Abraham, Connor Kowaleski

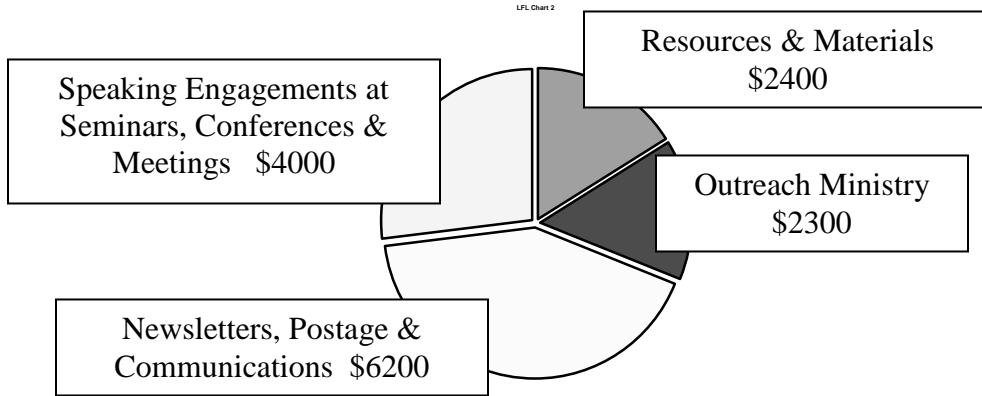


Billboard entering the town of Harbor Beach advertising the Bake Sale.

Your Gifts to LFL by Gary Peters, Treasurer

The all-volunteer ministry of **Lutherans for Life of Michigan** is thankful for all its generous contributors who give of their treasures to support the operation of this ministry. Your gifts assist us in carrying out our mission in Michigan and beyond to give witness to the sanctity of all human life, from conception to natural death, based on God’s Word. Friends of LFL of Michigan, like you, are a blessing and instrumental to the success of our mission and ministry.

This year, Lutherans for Life of Michigan has approved an operating budget of \$14,900. The budget’s various accounts can be broken down into four (4) general areas: Resources & Materials; Outreach Ministry; Speaking (or providing the “*Life Display*”) at various Seminars, Meetings and Conferences; and Newsletters & Communications.



We hope you will call on us if we can be of service in your witness “*For Life*”. Thank you again for your support.

* * * * *



Planning a **MINISTRY or HEALTH FAIR...**
 Need a **SPECIAL EVENT SPEAKER** for
 your congregation?

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

Contact: Connie Davis
 Phone: 586-949-9261
 Email: lflmi@comcast.com

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

Video and DVD Lending Library

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE OF MICHIGAN has a lending library of videos and DVDs that are available to congregations, organizations and individuals upon request. For a topical listing of resources, visit our website at www.lutheransforlifeofmichigan.org

To reserve a resource, please contact LFL of Michigan at 586-949-9261 or email lflmi@comcast.net

It's Not Gay [25 minute DVD] Produced by American Family Association

This resource presents a story that few have heard, allowing former homosexuals the opportunity to tell their own story in their own words. Along with medical and mental health experts, these individuals express a clear warning that the prevalent view of homosexuality being presented to students is not the whole story.

Truth Unmasked Produced by Life Issues Institute

This resource is an interactive CD-ROM on life issues with graphics and music exclusively for junior high ages and older. Topics include: fetal development, general facts on abortion, description of abortion procedures, and risks involved in abortion.

Change Service Requested



Notes 'n Quotes

* “The popular notion that "you can't legislate morality" is a myth. Morality is legislated every day from the vantage point of one value system being chosen over another. The question is not whether we will legislate morality, but whose morality gets legislated.” [*Chuck Colson, Breakpoint* commentary, June 6, 2007]

* “The problem with stem cell research has nothing to do with its potential to cure diseases. There might actually be incredible discoveries of cures from the destruction of embryos. There might also be incredible discoveries of cures from experimenting on prisoners or killing the infirm to study the dying process. This is not a debate about whether embryonic stem cell research accomplishes anything. This is a debate about the wrongful ending of human life.” [*Pastor Robert Fleischmann* in *Clearly Caring*, July/August 2006]

* “Every life, from the embryo in a fallopian tube to grandma in the nursing home, has purpose because God is the One who is at work in their lives according to His purpose. What a powerful message for the family whose little baby is born with anencephaly and only lived a few hours. What a powerful message for the family standing around grandma's bed in the nursing home wondering why God doesn't take her home.” [*Dr Jim Lamb*, April 5, 2006 letter]

* “How can the dream survive if we murder the children?” [*Dr Alveda King*, college professor and niece of Dr Martin Luther King]

* “What arrogance to decree that, because we deem another's life not worth living, it must be ended. But that is the spirit, or spiritlessness, of the age. How far we have come from poor, backward, modest Hippocrates, who advised us: ‘First do no harm’. Ah, but how much more we have learned since his time. How much more advanced we are now! Yes, and how much we have forgotten. As knowledge has expanded, wisdom has shrunk.” [*Paul Greenberg*]

* “In this Information Age...people who care about human dignity can easily find out what they need to know. The trick is getting them to care in the first place. It's making our voices and concerns heard about what many call the ‘clutter’ of the Information Age. When thousands of things, most of them worthless, compete for people's attention, we need to help people focus on the right things. We need to remind them that there are things more deserving of their attention than who entered rehab and who fathered whose baby. Just as [William] Wilberforce became the conscience of his age, we must become the conscience of the Information Age. It will not make us popular, any more than Wilberforce's persistence endeared him to his peers. But if we do not try to get people to look at the larger world, then today's victims of brutality might as well be invisible.” [*Mark Earley*, President of Prison Fellowship, in article titled Make You Look: Wilberforce and Awareness, 2/20/07]

* “Woe to us, if the history books record that our society was more passionate about protecting animals than it was about protecting its own children.” [*Barb Listing*, RtL of MI President]