



Fargo Moorhead Lutherans for Life

Fargo Moorhead Area LFL

Spring 2015

LFL Life Thoughts in the Church Year for June 7 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

“Today’s epistle from 2 Corinthians 4 is filled with hope for the death of a Christian and those they leave behind. There awaits a glory “beyond comparison” (vs. 17). But there is also hope for the ill and dying Christian as long as God gives them life. For God’s Spirit is at work in the “inner self” (vs. 16). We never know what that “working” might be, and we must protest vehemently any attempt to cut it short. Prayer: Father, help us understand that as long as You give life, You give life meaning. Amen.

SHANDA LOVES LIFE

by Brad Youngquist

Six years ago when my wife and I were expecting twins, our unborn daughter was diagnosed with Trisomy 18. Unlike Down syndrome (which is Trisomy 21), our doctor told us babies with Trisomy 18 rarely live to birth or often live only a few days after birth. Our doctor showed us the ultrasound pictures of our daughter; she was about half the size of her twin brother; there was also an obvious heart condition visible from the abnormal blood flow through her heart; she also had hydrocephalus which is excess brain fluid. Normally everyone has a small percentage of fluid in the center of their brain, but the ultrasounds showed the center of our daughters brain as mostly fluid, with a small percentage of brain tissue surrounding it. One ultrasound view also showed her head disproportionately shaped. Since our doctor was uncertain in her diagnosis, we were sent from our Fargo ND hospital to a Twin Cities hospital for a high level ultrasound.

My wife and I both knew right away that even if one of our twins had major complications that we would never consider abortion and that we would do everything possible for our daughter. We were already a family; plain and simple. We prayed a lot for our daughter. During the high level ultrasound visit, doctors strongly suggested amniocentesis. They did not actually mention "abortion" but instead

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CONVENTION 2015

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FM LFL DESSERT BANQUET

DR. JEAN GARTON AWARD

ANNUAL MEETING

June 28, 2015

3:30 PM

WITH SPECIAL
PRESENTATION

See Flyer inside and
please post in your
church bulletin and / or
bulletin board.



2015 With Fargo Force Players

SHANDA LOVES LIFE (continued from page 1)

worded it, "take the amniocentesis test, and then you can decide what you want to do." Since we knew that this meant a 1 in 300 chance of premature delivery, we said "No," but the doctors did not want to take "no" for an answer and kept pushing us. I then told them that, "It did not really matter to us if our child had Trisomy 18 or Trisomy 21, we loved her just the same, and since the amniocentesis is only to determine that and serves no other purpose but to contemplate abortion, that NO we would not take that risk."

They further pushed us and told us they thought we were wrong and said we should reconsider and take the test, "So at least our Fargo doctors would know." I knew that since we had twins it meant that we could lose them both (real odds were 1 in 150) so we finally insisted, "NO" and they finally left the room.

A few months later my wife, Jolene, gave birth to a boy and a girl. Since we knew Shanda would be frail, our doctor told us a cesarean delivery would likely be best. Doctors gave Jolene medication to stop her labor, while a rather large team of medical personal were gathered for the operation. There was even a heart specialist on hand in case Shanda had complications. Indeed, I was quite impressed!

Everything went smooth as clockwork. There was no trisomy 18, and while our daughter Shanda does have Down syndrome, she is the cutest and funest little girl any parent could ever ask for!

As for the hydrocephalus, she does have a much larger area of brain fluid, but she did not need a shunt, and it appears to have no negative side effect. She was well under 4 pounds at birth and spent a little over 2 weeks of excellent care in the NICU at Fargo's Merit Care Hospital. At 6 months of age when she was only 5 pounds, she was in heart failure and underwent open heart surgery to repair holes in the chambers of her heart. Luckily, our Fargo hospital has one of the most gifted heart surgeons in the world who performed the operation.

Today, Shanda is one of the most outgoing kids in her preschool, and loves life. This fall she starts kindergarten with her twin brother Zachary. Like many kids, she will have some special Ed help, but we're told that most kids with Down syndrome now graduate from high school with the rest of their peers. Shanda loves puppies and her baby dolls and just learned to peddle her trike about a year ago, and rides it most every day.

I've always believed that God values everyone's life equally, and I don't think that any people are better than others; while everyone has their gifts and talents, no one is perfect. Shanda is probably the most loving little girl anyone could ever meet! She constantly puts a huge smile on most any stranger she meets when out in public; few people can do that which she can!

I'm told that 80 to 90% of parents will chose abortion if they find they are expecting a child with Down syndrome. Too many choose abortion for other conditions because they think they want only a perfect child, which is impossible (no child is perfect)! These choices have nothing to do with a mother's life being in danger, but more so the fear of unknown in raising a special needs child. While Shanda does have some special needs and care (mainly with her eating habits) she's really much more like any normal everyday kid, than unlike them. I hope that someday abortion becomes illegal; until that happens, if possible Shanda and I could maybe help change some minds. Whether you simply read this story, or even if you want to meet Shanda in person, it's easy to see why she's so likeable and we're so proud of her.

(Shanda is currently 12 years old. She's active in hockey, horse riding, baseball, soccer, and loves to sing in church.)

FARGO MOORHEAD LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL PRESENTATION

“Our Life in Christ”

A Pro-Life message inside and outside the womb

BY **PASTOR LYLE KATH**

FM LFL Pastoral Advisor

Sunday, June 28th, 2015 3:30 PM

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

2601 23rd Ave South Fargo, ND

3:30 pm – Coffee and Snacks

3:45 pm – Special Presentation by Pastor Kath

4:15 FM LFL Annual Chapter Meeting



You will also have the opportunity to view a 30 minute video entitled **“180”**

What changed their minds ... in seconds? This award-winning new documentary had over 1.2 million views in its first 30 days on YouTube! The DVD combines historical footage with cutaways from numerous brief interviews in which a messianic Jew, Ray Comfort, explains to modern young people what the Holocaust was. (Many had never heard Adolf Hitler or the Holocaust, or had been taught it didn't really happen!) Comfort then briefly explains what sin is, and with just a question or two compares the Holocaust to the abortion movement in the USA. The rapid change of heart from “pro-choice” to “pro-life” among those interviewed is amazing!

All are invited to attend. For more information, e-mail
FMLuth4Life@gmail.com or call Gail Waagen at 701-306-6283



MARCH FOR LIFE 2015

By Jacinda Neustel



In January, I was blessed with the opportunity to go to Washington D.C. to participate in the March for Life. The issue of abortion is something that God has laid on my heart, and I looked forward to meeting more people who actually shared the same view as me about this issue, since most people in my age group are on the other side of the spectrum. I honestly feel that it was God's will for me to go because between all of you at FM Area LFL, my home congregation, and National LFLs "Y4Life", my whole trip was completely paid for. On the trip I made important connections with the people from St. Louis that I needed to make in order for it to be possible to move down there this fall. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for making this trip possible for me, and for allowing me to be so encouraged in pursuing a life devoted to speaking up for the unborn. I cannot thank you enough, you have blessed me tremendously.

2015 LFL National Conference October 30-31, 2015 Petersburg, Kentucky

Here are the wonderful speakers scheduled to join us in October:



- Ken Ham on "The Gospel in Genesis"
- Dr. David Menton on "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made"
- Col. John Eidsmoe on "Evolution vs. the Sanctity of Human Life"
- Timothy Goeglein on "Faith in the Halls of Power"
- Buddy Davis with a "Creation Concert"
- Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb on "Created, Redeemed, Called — The Trinitarian Value of Human Life"
- John Hawkins on estate planning
- Lori Trinche on Life Teams

"But now thus says the Lord, he who created you ... Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1).

This year's conference will also offer you plenty of time to explore the Creation Museum!

To quote Dr. Lamb, the "theme focuses on the value God gives to human life. You cannot find three better words to encapsulate that value. Every human being is someone created by God, someone redeemed by Jesus, and someone God either has called or desires to call into an eternal relationship with Him. When you have the very power of the Triune God giving life value, nothing else really matters!"

WELCOME PASTOR LYLE KATH!

We are very pleased to welcome a new pastoral advisor to our chapter executive board. Rev. Lyle Kath is a 2nd career Pastor. He is on the active roster for LCMS Pastors but due to his disability, he is unable to receive a call. He recently moved back from Eyota, MN. to his hometown of Wahpeton. He has a wife-Jody of 39 years and they have 2 grown children and 2 Grand-children. 'PK' (as he was known by his parishioners) was formerly Wahpeton's first Parks and Recreation Director ('74-'78) and North Dakota State School of Science Activities Coordinator ('78-'88) before he left for the ministry. His first call was to Our Saviors Lutheran-Eyota, MN. (12 mi. east of Rochester). He served there 9 years before accepting a call to St. John's Lutheran in the rural Cambridge, MN area for 3 years. Then he served 2 years at St. Martins Lutherans in Winona before having to resign his call due to throat cancer. PK continues to lead worship via an iPad with a speaker app and a power point presentation (BTW-LCMS Pastors / churches may contact PK at his email address below for pulpit supply / substituting). He also writes Christian devotions and poetry. He has written 10 books; 3 of which are published; Conquering Cancer Through Faith in Christ (devotions that reflect on his bout with cancer), Psalm Psonnets (a book of poems-1 for each Psalm including numerous personal poems that he has written throughout his life) and Standing on the Promises (a book of both devotions and poems based on the promises of God-to be out in May). PK volunteers at his church visiting shut-ins and leading worship when their Pastor requests. He also writes weekly devotions for LCMS Mission Central website and does a daily email ministry called, Pearls (ljkath@midco.net-[contact](mailto:ljkath@midco.net) him if interested in receiving. You may view his personal website for more information at www.pastorlylekath.com

DON'T FORGET . . . to send in your national LFL membership renewal when you receive your reminder letter this month. Be sure to write in our chapter name and / or number (#037) so we receive a portion of your donation back into the chapter. If you are not currently a national member and would like to be, please contact Gail Waagen for a membership brochure

CAN YOU HELP? It is again that time of year when we ask each of you, our LFL members and friends to prayerfully consider how you would like to be involved in our local chapter over the coming year. There are a number of opportunities for you to consider as we start a new year. We have openings on our election ballot for persons willing to serve on the executive board. We meet 3 - 4 times a year and do the planning for chapter events and use of resources. We are looking for 1 or 2 persons to serve as coordinator(s) for the 2015 banquet event, usually held in October. We also need someone who could serve as our resource and education person. This involves keeping an inventory of our resources, ordering new supplies as needed and setting up a display of our materials at chapter events. Please look over the form on the back page of this newsletter and send in to let us know how you can help. If you have any questions, contact Gail Waagen at 701-306-6283 or e-mail gl_wgn@msn.com. I would like to thank each and every one who is serving or has served on our executive board, speaker's bureau, banquet committee, as church contact, helped with newsletter, resources, or being faithful in prayer for our chapter and pro-life issues.

CHURCH CONTACT CORNER: A reminder that we have available several CDs with the LIFE Sunday materials if anyone wants to use in their congregation. These materials (bulletin insert, Just For Kids insert, sermons, worship service, children's message and Bible study) are great to use at any time through the year. Or you may want to consider the use of Life Quotes, congregational bulletin blurbs with a for Life message every week. Life Thoughts in the Church Year may be another resource; each are available on www.LutheransforLife.org. Or consider Life News, a free, monthly download for congregations. Also, our chapter keeps a good supply of educational pamphlets, booklets and other resources, such as our touch babies or fetal models, on hand for use in your congregations at any time. Don't forget about our speaker's bureau, with a speaker available to make a pro-life presentation as well. Please feel free to contact Gail Waagen at 701-306-6283 or e-mail at gl_wgn@msn.com.

BANQUET MISSION PROJECT 2014

Dear Lutherans for Life – Fargo Moorhead Chapter,

Birthright has gratefully received your donation of \$1750.00 on December 15, 2014. Along with our sincere thanks for your support goes our pledge to use your contributions wisely as we continue to assist those who are in need of Birthright's services. Birthright of Fargo-Moorhead is well into its fourth decade of providing alternatives to abortion. Women are often uninformed or misinformed about the development of the baby in the early stages of pregnancy, and about the risks and dangers associated with abortion. We can't place a financial value on our work. We can't quit. We are working for the most vulnerable people in the world, those unable to speak for themselves: the unborn. Our Birthright volunteers are committed to staying the course to the end, to the time when all life is protected and valued.

We truly appreciate your help and concern for God's littlest people. The fundraiser you sponsored was awesome. The gift of \$1750.00 was a real surprise and welcome gift. We have assisted over 640 women, children, and men during 2014. The numbers keep rising. Last year we served 585. On behalf of all of us at Birthright and most of all, the women, children and families who come to us for help "Thank You"

Birthright of Fargo-Moorhead, Inc is a totally volunteer organization and we are always looking for conscientious people who would like to volunteer with us. We assist the clients who come to us for formula, diapers, clothing, blankets and other needs. We have used maternity clothing if a woman has need and we give free pregnancy tests.

Thank you again for your generous heart.

Sincerely yours,

LaVerne Seefeld

Birthright Board of Directors member, Volunteer

Birthright of Fargo-Moorhead was the organization chosen by the banquet committee members as our mission project in 2014. Using the funds raised through generous donations by attendees at the banquet, Gail Waagen and Scott McAllen were able to present a check for \$1750.00 to LaVerne Seefeld at the Birthright office in Moorhead.



2014 – 2015 FM - LFL

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President – Gail Waagen

Vice President – Dean Sonnenberg

Secretary – Gail Steele

Treasurer – Scott McAllen

Pastoral Advisor – Pastor Lyle Kath

Education/Resources – vacant

Banquet Coordinators –

Kathy Carl and Elsa Richardson

Prayer Warriors – Yvonne Timian

Speakers Bureau

Beth Schaible

Jerry Kensok

Linda Froslic

Kim Wagner

Dessert Banquet 2014

The 26th Pro-Life Celebration was hosted by Triumph Lutheran Brethren Church in Moorhead on October 19th. Our keynote speaker was Janna Myrdal, ND State Director for Concerned Women of America, the nation's largest women's public policy organization. Janna spoke on "What is the Value of LIFE" as she shared her enthusiasm and experiences as Chairwoman of ND Choose Life, working for passage of Measure One, the Human Life Amendment. A wonderful selection of piano music was provided by Lori Cline and "God Knew Your Name", a special music number presented by Kim Wagner. Participants also enjoyed delicious pies and several door prizes donated by local merchants.



BOB ROSENVOLD RECEIVES DR. JEAN GARTON AWARD

Bob has done so much to support the mission of Fargo Moorhead Lutherans for Life since the chapter was formed in 1982. He has shown his love for LIFE through involvement with several Pro-Life and other Christian ministries over many years, going back as far as when the Billy Graham ministry came to Fargo. He also participated in bringing a Christian Radio station to the Fargo-Moorhead area that was geared specifically for youth, has been involved with Youth for Christ, and served on the board for AAA Pregnancy Clinic (now First Choice Clinic). Bob was recognized as a person who affirms the worth of the weak, the poor, the handicapped and the elderly by reaching out to meet the needs of others in the church and community. He has provided help for refugees, and others in his congregation, befriending them, picking them up when needed to bring them to church and to various activities in the community.

He has also shown his faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through active participation at Triumph Lutheran Brethren Church. As an attorney, Bob has been a strong advocate for the rights of unborn children through helping many pro-life and Christian organizations establish their 501 (c) 3 status. This included F-M LFL when we incorporated in 1987. He continued to serve as the legal advisor for the chapter for several years. And over recent months, he has again provided his legal expertise regarding several IRS documents. He researched for the information needed and also provided members of his staff at Onstad Twitchill law firm to assist in preparing an amendment to our organizing documents and getting it properly filed with the secretary of state. This was all done without expectation of any compensation for his work. FM LFL was certainly pleased to present the Dr. Jean Garton award for 2014 to **Bob Rosenvold**.





Lutherans For Life
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Fargo, ND 58107-1202
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Fargo-Moorhead Area Lutherans for Life

“Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated Voices For Life”

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____
Address: _____
E-Mail: _____ Home Church: _____

Check all that apply:

- YES - Continue to receive F-M LFL newsletter: Prefer ____ Mail or ____ E-mail
- Please contact me regarding a presentation for my church, school, or other group
- I would like more information about being a Church Contact
- Please send me a CD with 2015 LIFE Sunday materials
- I can help LFL in the following ways (check all that apply):
 - Banquet committee Making phone calls Prayer Warrior
 - Serving on the exec board Resource and Education
 - Writing for Newsletter Staffing Pro-life displays at marketing events

Comments and/or information requests: _____

Please fill out the form above and return to: Fargo Moorhead LFL, PO Box 1202, Fargo, ND 58107
or email at FMLuth4Life@gmail.com