

Volume 38, Issue 2

Summer 2023



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE OF MISSOURI

Life Matters

From the President

Dear Friends For Life,

The Golden Ratio. Ever heard of it? It became the most enjoyable topic for me when I taught geometry. (No, this will not be a math lesson - well, mostly not.) The value of this number is 1.618033989... When you square it (multiply it by itself) you get 2.618033989. There's so much more! It's appearance all over 'nature', God's creation, is phenomenal. (check out this site for more amazing stuff: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_ratio , IF you want to, of course) It was easy to show the students God's handiwork in this world with this ratio.

The point of this in a LIFE newsletter? You may have had an opportunity to discuss the existence of God with someone, maybe not. Can you prove He is there? Probably not. But I believe you can "reason" with a person. The suggestion that all material came about by accident is absurd to us. Why? Because we have been blessed with faith by the Spirit to trust Genesis and the other 65 books. Yes, indeed. (also the basically 0% chances involved)

But there is more is there not? How can we look at the absolute fine tuning in this universe, or the complexity that could not have developed piece by piece over time, or the many constants that must be what they are or the earth is toast, and not "see" the hand and mind of a "designer", Yahweh, our God? "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." Romans 1: 20 NIV

That "seen" work of his includes valuable living humans, both in the womb and out. This is 'clear', to any reasonable person. That is what we, Lutherans For Life, are all about: educating people, reasoning with the truth.

Blessings on your work for Him. Stay educated, stay strong in faith. Pray for National LFL, as well as the life-affirming folks in MO. Peace.

This is the summer email-only edition. Please pass it along to anyone you wish. It is also available at our site, lflfmo.org

Blessings, Mike (Albers) lflfmo@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

* LFL National Conference (lutheransforlife.org/conference) October 11-13

Donate to LFL of MO !

Send your Name, Address and Amount to

*John Mueller, Treasurer
5 Lindy's Landing Dr., St. Peters, MO 63376*

Please state if it is a general donation or for a donation to the Adoption Fund.

or if it is in Memory of, or in Honor of, someone or in Thanksgiving for a particular event/happening

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(See the back page for membership)

Essay Contest 2022

There were two students that placed in the 6-8 grade competition: Jace Latham, first place, and Lilliana Wiederkehr, second place. Jace will receive a \$100 award, while Lilliana will get a \$50 award.

Jace eventually became the first place winner in the National competition. For that honor he will receive \$250 from LFL National. He and his family were also invited to attend the national conference where he was to read his essay. Jace and his mom had plans to attend but they fell through. Instead of his presence to read the essay, there will be a recording of him doing so.

Here are their essays.

Jace Latham
Immanuel Lutheran Church and School
St. Charles, Missouri

Life's Puzzle

God's creation is a beautiful puzzle. When one decides to end his life, God's puzzle is incomplete. Everyone is part of God's creation and adds a special piece to the overall puzzle. Our lives add value and have a relevant place in the world God designed. When someone commits suicide, it takes one amazing piece away from God's puzzle.

The Bible discusses the value and purpose of life in great detail. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and hope" (English Standard Version). It is important to understand life can and will be difficult. God has a wonderful plan for each and every one of us; people must not lose hope. Unfortunate events can happen, and one must figure out how to work through them. When individuals keep God in their lives and listen to what He says, they have a better chance of realizing they have a purpose, just as they are. When one commits suicide a puzzle piece is lost forever. Suicide is the 12th leading cause of death, effecting every ethnic group and all ages ("Suicide"). 1 Corinthians 6:20 says, "For you were bought with a price, so glorify God in your body." God did not give people a life for it to end early. Every person has value and is brought into the world for a reason. All people should understand and say to themselves: I am loved, just as I am. Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." The importance of life goes beyond our daily lifestyle and tasks. There can also be a stronger purpose in situations not always seen and heard. While 275,000 people are saved every year from suicide, about 800,000 die worldwide from suicide alone ("Suicide"). Mental health is important, as well as helping people feel like they belong and are part of God's puzzle.

God's puzzle becomes incomplete when someone commits suicide. The Bible tells every person they have value and a purpose as a human being. If people follow God's word throughout their lives, everyone will feel connected. In the end, each piece of the puzzle will fit exactly how God intended.



Lilliana Wiederkehr
Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church
St. Peters, MO

Tower of God's Love

God is like an architect who designs a city. In this city, each person is a building. If someone comes and knocks over a building, it not only destroys the building, but it damages surrounding buildings. Similarly, when someone has an abortion, she is damaging not only her baby but also herself and others around her. God has a particular plan for that baby, and when someone ends a life through abortion, all the plans God has for that baby are incomplete.

Jeremiah 1:5 states, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations" (New International Version). God has a plan for each baby before birth. He has set apart each child to be a part of His plan. Ending that baby's life is like knocking down a building in the city; it ruins the plans He has for that baby. When my mother was pregnant with my brother, the doctors said something was wrong. They gave my mom the option of doing some genetic testing, so she could have the chance to abort the baby. She chose not to abort the baby because she knows God loves us just as we are. God has a special plan for my brother; he brings joy to the people around him by always being happy and energetic. God does not want someone to end a life because of a handicap or an unintended pregnancy; all life is valuable. Paul writes "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). In God's eyes, we are all perfect like the city is perfect in the architect's eyes. Ending the life of an unborn child is like knocking down a beautiful building the architect made. He has created us for good works. The baby someone has aborted could have cured cancer or ended Wiederkehr 2 world hunger. Ending that baby's life would not be giving that baby a chance to grow under God's love and forgiveness.

God loves us and wants us to live according to His plan, not ours. Aborting a baby damages God's plan, like destroying a building damages the architect's creation. God wants us to love all people, born and unborn.



This is a repeat but worth doing so.

Only three high schools submitted applications for the Wallenmeyer award.

If you have connections to one of those schools that did not offer a submission, would you please contact an appropriate leader there and offer encouragement to them for this coming year?

It's early in the year so it can easily be put on the back burner, or forgotten. Future reminders will likely be necessary, also.

Leonard Wallenmeyer Life Awards for Graduating Seniors

The following high school seniors received the 2022-23 Leonard Wallenmeyer Life Award. This is the \$250 grant given to a deserving Lutheran student of Missouri.

Josiah Thieme, Calvary LHS

Matthew Zilz, LHS of St. Charles

Kendall Hirte, Eureka HS, St. Mark's LC

MO'S LARGEST DIAPER SHOWER

Thanks so much to those of you responsible for the collection of 17,488 diapers.

For each report, \$50 was sent to the LIFE charity you selected.

What a blessing you are to those in MO working hard to help parents.

Here are the results and charities.

<u>From</u>	<u>count</u>	<u>to</u>
Ebenezer LC, Leslie	3406	Pregnancy Assistance Center
West STL County	2550	MyLife Medical and Resource Center
LFL West, Concordia	2295	New Beginnings
Our Savior, St. Chas	2250	Pregnancy Options Center
Trinity, Columbia	2005	Lutheran Family and Children Serv.
Salem Blackjack	1384	Concordia Seminary Food Bank
St. Johns, Lohmann	1188	Swaddling Clothes, Hope LC
California Chapter	878	Moniteau Christian Ministries Center
St. Paul, Union	842	Pregnancy Assistance Center
Christ Memorial STL	594	South Cnty Pregnancy Help Center
St. Pauls, Fulton	96	Faith Maternity Care

A response from one of the recipients

Dear Lutherans For Life of Missouri

We appreciate your efforts in organizing a diaper shower! Thank you for choosing XXXX as a recipient of those diapers and a check for \$50. Your support means so much to us and will benefit the moms and babies we serve. May God continue to bless your work!

New Resources from LFL

Here I Stand For Life Bulletin Insert

<https://www.cph.org/here-we-stand-a-bulletin-insert-for-life-sunday>

There are a number of additional resources available through the link in the description of this bulletin insert.

Just As ... I Am – Life Sunday 2024 Bulletin Insert

<https://www.cph.org/just-as-i-am-life-sunday-2024-bulletin-insert>

There will be a number of additional resources available through the link in the description of this bulletin insert.

I Praise You ... Fold-Out Brochure

<https://www.cph.org/i-praise-you-fold-out-brochure>

This beautiful 14" x 36" fold-out brochure highlights the fetal development of Jesus in the womb.

Charitable Conversation: 8 Tips for Redirecting a Hostile Discussion (fold-out brochure)

<https://www.cph.org/charitable-conversation-8-tips-for-redirecting-a-hostile-discussion-fold-out-brochure>

Coming Soon:

Hoy me siento ... | Today I'm Feeling ... Prayers for anyone who is involved in a child's life (Spanish edition)

ADOPTION FUND FOR ORPHANS

Approximately 153 million orphans world-wide are trapped in a cycle of hopelessness, without anyone to love them...protect them...care for them.... Adoption costs of \$20-30K seems “financially impossible” to many Christian couples. That feeling results in thousands of children remaining in orphanages instead of learning the gospel of Jesus Christ in a forever family. The “*Adoption Fund, Sponsored by LFL of Missouri*” account is now fully set up and ready! Any Lutheran in our state may contribute.

To do so, send your donation made out to “LFL of MO” to our treasurer, John Mueller (see address below), including the note **Adoption Fund**.

Any questions can also be directed to him at sharkhunter3@yahoo.com

DONATIONS

Thank you for your contributions! Your donations fund all the many projects we do here in Missouri!
You are a blessing to LFL of MO!

Kathy & Kenneth Gustavison

Pastor Richard Peckman

LH Kevil

Dr. Howard Kramer

Please send donations to the treasurer:

Lutherans For Life of MO, C/O John Mueller
5 Lindy's Landing Dr.
St. Peters, MO 63376

Chapter and Life Team Reports

Christ Memorial LC, St. Louis Life Team The Lutheran Foundation representative from our congregation, along with the pastors, is presenting a “Resurrection Workshop”. Along with using our Life Team’s funeral planning material, he will discuss the many retirement and end-of-life necessities (wills, power of attorney, etc). The Monarch event coming up in November at CM will be another big one, especially before Christmas.

Springfield Life Chapter--- We had another wildly successful rummage sale. For the past 35 years, Lutherans have come together to donate, sort, price and sell their treasures. This year we had a LOT of treasures - over \$11,000. Within a few weeks we will have our annual "How do we spend it in a God-pleasing manner" meeting.

Annual Meeting 2024

We will need a host congregation for our annual meeting next spring. Could your chapter or Life Team find a church to serve LFL of MO in this matter?

It would involve setting up for the meeting, providing morning refreshments, and finding a place that would deliver lunch (paid for by attendees).

Also involved is local publicity for the event.

Let me know if you locate a potential host. Thanks.

Check it out

Missouri group, Missourians for Constitutional Freedom, and others, propose ballot measures to amend the Missouri constitution to protect the ‘right’ to murder babies in utero.

<https://www.kcur.org/politics-elections-and-government/2023-03-09/missouri-group-proposes-ballot-measures-that-would-protect-abortion-rights-in-the-constitution>

(This is an NPR report. Planned Parenthood gets a lot of ink. Sam Lee gets a slight mention.)

Refreshing, when people see the light of Life.

https://www.dailysignal.com/2023/06/28/this-former-abortionist-has-plan-changing-hearts-unborn/?utm_source=TDS_Email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MorningBell&mkt_tok=ODIOLU1IVCOzMDQAAAGMxIlvS-clCgK8ciimP5smXtonyaTCdFbVZtUh-1lFfAhmaCgxMRisBa0vUJ4Flahy-bHcIBdUy7V-thvK5SiUfn5a5nzEcXjJUc7BXJsHaCzPtNnF

Fetus, or baby?

https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/were-having-a-fetus-pro-life-ad-lampoons-abortion-pushers-use-of-sanitized-language/?utm_source=daily-usa-2023-07-05&utm_medium=email

An interview with Sound of Freedom star and producer

https://www.dailysignal.com/2023/07/25/yes-child-trafficking-is-happening-your-community/?utm_source=TDS_Email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MorningBell&mkt_tok=ODIOLU1IVCOzMDQAAAGNMK7H-dbz6krQ3aFhbpzH1CJB6WtvBtCuq8bSatuiKwSSsQ1lidLj0stSl3j_q6h6_eVLL45OH3Fmqsiwf9ctpZWhXcmX4ZnUDbnoNJiqc1JszlPf

Around the USA

DC – How a judge can single-handedly determine the outcome of a trial. 9 life-affirming people are on trial under a FACE charge for doing kingdom work at an abortion clinic. How? Check it out.

https://www.lifesitenews.com/opinion/dc-face-trial-pro-life-defense-not-allowed-to-say-infanticide-abortion-or-innocent-lives/?utm_source=daily-usa-2023-08-18&utm_medium=email

Texas - Texas’ legislature passed SB 14 - a piece of legislation that protects children from medical harm by **banning the practice and recommendation of experimental surgeries and cross-sex hormones** that irreversibly damage the bodies of children.

Texas also has joined a growing number of states that are protecting children from the Left’s spreading of gender ideology that has become so extreme and creates huge profits for the medical industry at the expense of children.

Illinois – Regarding the *Deceptive Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers Act* previously mentioned. Good news: a judge has blocked implementation with an injunction.

<https://angelusnews.com/news/life-family/illinois-law-blocked-pregnancy-resource-centers/#:~:text=The%20lawsuit%20seeks%20to%20keep%20Illinois%20Attorney%20General,Violation%20could%20bring%20fines%20of%20up%20to%20%2450%2C000.>

Ohio -- Voters there make an important decision

https://www.dailysignal.com/2023/08/10/choice-rests-with-ohio-voters-protect-life-dont/?utm_source=TDS_Email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MorningBell&mkt_tok=ODIOLU1IVCOzMDQAAAGNfe5V6uH3E1zqvmGK8JTB2oGSynToOyuwcrx-kFsTHbuElywj08U42fLVWM2rJ8Xts8Q8Sbwwm5lXTh8IVwrbod5zwJMeioEvU6Zc3Qh-fSdu3Os7

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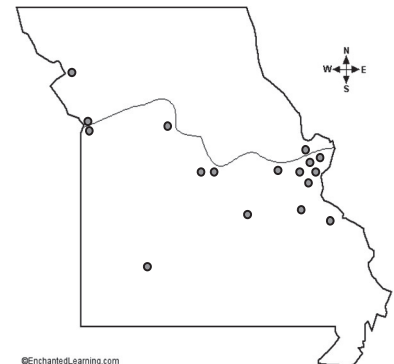
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