

Volume 39, Issue 1

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LUTHERANS FOR LIFE OF MISSOURI

Life Matters

## *From the President*

Dear Friends For Life,

There is an old joke that goes like this: When you arrive in Paradise, how will you know when you meet Adam or Eve?

They will be the two humans that have no belly button.

Actually, that is not really a joke, is it? They were the first two humans. God made (formed) them without the use of a uterus. They were most likely "adults" - Adam had the ability to name every creature in his world.

Each of us does have a navel, along with every human since Adam and Eve. Innies or outies, they are proof that we came from a conception of our mom and dad. Proof that when we implanted in the uterus we began to develop a placenta, with the connecting umbilical cord. Our mom had nothing to do with this process. This amazing organ and connecting pipe all came from the cells that developed as we grew and grew.

"Navel-gazing" is an old phrase. It refers to a self-contemplative person who has nothing better to do than "gaze at their navel".

I propose that we need to do more of our own navel-gazing. By doing so, we are reminded where we came from, how we got here, Whose we are. We see the direct result of the LIFE we were given. We can reflect on the absolute miracle of every human life, not just ours.

Those who oppose LIFE, wanting "freedom" to choose to destroy the human in the womb, need to do some of their own serious navel-gazing. Just maybe they would wake up to the reality of how they themselves got here. Satan has them blinded to this reality, or choosing to ignore it though true.

I have never brought this up with a "pro-death" supporter, but if I get another chance, and they will actually talk with me, I will pursue this with them.

As you celebrate your LIFE and those you love, we head into Mothers and Fathers Day. We may not have ours around anymore; we are now the main parents of the family. At any rate, enjoy yourself. Push your church to have a great diaper drive (more later).

Reminder: The summer newsletter is email/website only.

*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. John 15: 12*

Blessings, Mike (Albers) [lflofmo@gmail.com](mailto:lflofmo@gmail.com)

Note: the email version of this newsletter is longer than this paper version. You can still change to email. Or view the email version on the website. Just let me know if you want to receive by email, not USPS mail

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*(See the back page for membership)*

## MO's Largest Diaper Shower

Gather your congregants and join in on the LFL of MO Diaper Shower. It is very simple.

From Sunday, May 12 to June 16 churches in MO are asked to collect diapers to be given to the charity of your choice: maybe a local PHC, an organization helping mothers with children, etc.

When you are finished, take a count (hopefully you'll need a calculator :).

Report this count to [lflofmo@gmail.com](mailto:lflofmo@gmail.com).

Please state the congregation supporting this event, together with your name, please.

Along with this count, let us know the name and address of the charity you donated to. LFL of MO will send a \$50 check to them in your honor. A double win for LIFE.



## LFL of MO Annual Meeting

Over 50 MO LFLers attended the Annual Meeting on April 6. The meeting was held at Faith Lutheran Church, Springfield, MO.

Special shout out to our board member, Kim Deluce. The Springfield LIFE Chapter organized everything so well. Thanks to you and your group!

One of the exciting features for this meeting was the ability of the church to live stream the event, allowing several from MO to “attend” in this way. The meeting was also recorded so others could join in later if they wished.

A special shout out to Pastor Dave Benson, and especially to a high school senior, Ryan Bourbina, who took care of the streaming for us.

There was another special blessing of this streaming opportunity. We had the privilege to hear our 6-8 grade Essay Contest winner, Christina Nissing, read her essay to us from home. She received a very warm round of applause.

A short meeting was held as required. Diane Albers, current LFL Board president, gave a brief presentation on our National LFL. The winners of our state contests were announced. The Midwest March on May 1 was promoted. I read the “State of LFL of MO” which each person had received. (See below). Board members up for election were accepted by acclamation. We then had a presentation from Dave Plemmons, representing MO Right to Life. He explained what is happening with the ‘initiative petition’ floating around looking for signatures. If it ends up on the November ballot, it has the chance, if passed, of putting abortion through birth in the MO Constitution as an amendment.

After a break, our own Executive Director of LFL gave two presentations. Before lunch he spoke to us about end-of-life issues and how we should respond. After lunch he extended the topic, followed by questions from the folks in attendance. They were very informative sessions.

Following the meeting, the LFL of MO board held their regular meeting.

## LFL OF MISSOURI REPORT for 2023

- \***Midwest March for Life:** Next year's march will be May 1, 2024 in Jefferson City.
  - \***March on the Arch:** April 29, 2023, co-sponsored by LCMS Life Ministry.
  - \***LFL of MO Essay Contest:** Every year for students in grades 6-8 and another for grades 9-12.
  - \* **LFL of MO Poster Contest:** for students in grades 3-5.
  - \***Wallenmeyer Life Awards** for seniors in Lutheran high schools.
  - \***MO's Largest Diaper Shower:** Every year between Mother's Day and Father's Day. Any church that reports the number of diapers collected will be able to name the Center where they donated the diapers and LFL of MO will send a \$50 check to that Center!
  - \***LifeSong for Orphans:** We want to help fund family dreams for MO Lutheran couples with a dollar-to-dollar adoption matching grant. One couple used this opportunity, raising enough to match what we had established.  
Donations can be given to LFL of MO, Adoption Fund
  - \***Word of Hope Brochures and Holders:** two free per church..
  - \***LFL of MO's Annual Meeting:** This is held in the Spring.
  - \* **One set of crosses with signs:** LFL of MO maintains this set of crosses that churches may use to display on their property. It is completed by two vinyl signs that explain the display and offer forgiveness and a hotline number to call. (This number is answered by Word of Hope.)
  - \***Displays** at MO District events and other events around the state.
  - \***Newsletter:** LFL of MO prints and mails, or emails, a newsletter four times a year.  
They are always available on the website.  
(Summer edition is digital only.)
  - \***Web site:** lflofmo.org
  - \***Facebook Page:** There is a LFL of MO Facebook page. Like and follow for life affirming news.
  - \***Presentations:** LFL OF MO would like to be available to all MO churches for Bible studies, confirmation classes and other kinds of presentations.  
We continue trying to finish making Owen's Mission presentations to all elementary and high schools in MO.
  - \***National/Regional Conferences:**  
The national conference was in Erlanger, KY, (Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter) in October.  
In 2024 there will be three regional conferences:  
Bristol, CN, September 14; Shawnee, KS, October 12; Winter Garden, FL, November 9
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## Contest Winners

Poster Contest: First place, **Micah Gierstorf**, home school; (\$25 award)

Second place, **Gia Cox**, St. Johns, Hannibal (\$10 award)

Essay Contest: First place, **Christina Nissing**, Immanuel Lutheran School, St. Charles (\$100 award)  
grades 6 – 8

Second place, **Abigail Carlson**, St. Johns, Hannibal. (\$50 award)

Participating schools: Immanuel, St. Chas.; Immanuel, Olivette; Trinity, Cape G; St. Johns, Hannibal

After the national winners have been decided, the posters and essays will be put in a newsletter by email and be on the website.



Christina Nissing, with her parents (right) and her teacher, Susie Schmieding (left)

## Chapter and Life Team Reports

**Capitol Area Chapter** Spring seems to be our busy time of year. We had an information meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup> about the initiative petition that is being circulated to try and get on the ballot about abortion. The petition will have the right to have an abortion through all 9 months among other things, installed in our MO constitution so that it can't be changed or updated by our legislature. The petition has a lot of scary things in it. Get informed! Other things that our group is participating in are the Midwest March for Life on May 1<sup>st</sup> at the state Capitol, come and join us! Also, we will be participating in the MO LFL's diaper shower from Mother's Day to Father's Day again this year.

**Christ Memorial LC Life Team** We will be hosting our spring Monarch Jewelry event on May 9. We will be participating in the Diaper Drive again. We plan to hold a Senior Trivia Night.

**North St. Louis Chapter** In January we welcomed representatives from Monarch Jewelry and Crisis Aid to our annual chili luncheon for the whole church. We have chosen this group as our project of the year. If you haven't had them speak at your church, they would be interesting and informative. We are now finalizing plans to have a table at the Annual Valley of Flowers Festival in Florissant on May 3 and 4. We have 2 sets of babies at our table and people are always happy to hold them. No one can hold these "babies" without smiling. It's amazing. We participated in the Coalition Life March on the Arch. We are encouraging people to "Decline to sign" the Missouri petition to have abortion on the ballot. We plan to show Rev. Salemink's talk from the annual meeting at one of our next meetings. We will invite other interested people to join us.

**Rolla Area Chapter** The Rolla Area Chapter Lutherans For Life includes 10 congregations within an 80 mile radius, therefore each congregation represents LFL and supports one of the five area Pregnancy Resource Centers in a unique manner. During the last months several LFL members have attended fundraising banquets for their area Pregnancy Resource Center, conducted diaper drives, and baby clothes drives, provided a meeting place for an adoption agency and supported a child daycare center, made copies of "Life Date" available to congregation members, published "LifeNotes" in weekly bulletins and attended the recent State LFL meeting in Springfield. Above all, our members continue to bring abortion-minded women to our Lord in prayer.

As an LFL group, Life Sunday bulletin inserts have been supplied for all area LCMS congregations and the chapter has met to learn of the activities and successes of one of the area Pregnancy Resource Centers, share information from each congregation and the activities of the state LFL as well as the fine points of the efforts to place abortion accessibility constitutional amendment on the November election ballot.

**Trinity LC Life Team** (this is actually their report for the Winter Newsletter which I did not include)

Our Life Team has been busy these last few months! We sent Reformation cards and goodie bags to our Homebound members. We participated in Trunk or Treat which was held inside due to inclement weather. We also sent goodie bags at Christmas as well as hand made greeting cards made by a member of our congregation. In January, we celebrated Life Week with a sharing moment inviting the congregation to participate in the zoom calls at the Lutherans for Life website. On Life Sunday we held a freewill offering for LFL of MO Adoption Fund and the congregation received an award from LFCS of Mid Missouri in appreciation for their generosity and support.

**Springfield Chapter** Area 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents were invited to our bi-annual Healthy Relationship Banquet in February. The evening was spent with good food and a learning experience. We were excited to host the annual Lutherans for Life of Missouri Summit. It was well attended and extremely informative. We are very thankful for the massive ingathering for Newborns in Need. Our Mother's Day/Father's Day Ingathering is just around the corner where we support ALL STAGES of life...Newborns in Need, Sammy's Window (an assistance for children in foster care) and the elderly in a local rest home. The Annual MONGO Rummage is close behind. The exciting part of this project is that it brings out dozens of new volunteers. Our chapter continues to remain active and happy.

**West St. Louis County Chapter** Happy Mother's Day! West St Louis LFL met for our quarterly meeting last week and disbursed funds to support several local area, and international, For Life organizations. Our Life team at St Marks has a regular monthly talk at the end of church with topics from preborn to human trafficking and adoption and natural end of life directives. We will have a guest speaker April 27 Saturday) to discuss why to avoid (living) wills and have a POA in place and advance directives. It is open to all. Last week several members attended the "My Life pregnancy center" banquet. One of our members does ultrasounds for free at the center. Upcoming diapers and wipes drive, Mother's Day to Father's Day. With the number of one in four women suffering from post-abortion, we extend the forgiveness from the cross of Jesus Christ and also [word-of-hope.org](http://word-of-hope.org) flyers. Pray for the silent-suffering mothers. Defend the defenseless, they don't get to vote, thanks for all who Stand for life. The LORD be with you.



## 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 his address in the box below), and include the memo **Adoption Fund**.

Any questions can also be directed to him at [sharkhunter3@yahoo.com](mailto:sharkhunter3@yahoo.com)

## DONATIONS RECEIVED

*If you wish to donate to LFL of MO, please send your Name, Address and Amount to*

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

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*Please state if :for 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*

## Lutheran Adoption Conference

The conference was held at the Hyatt Regency Houston Intercontinental Airport on April 10 and 11. The opening dinner on the 10<sup>th</sup> began at 6pm. It was followed by a presentation of song and personal testimony by popular singer, Mark Schultz. He shared his own story of being adopted. It was a very moving experience to kick off the conference.



The full event began on Thursday. The speakers were:

Rev. Max Phillips, LFS Executive Director;

Rev. Michael Salemink, LFL Executive Director;

Kin Laube, KFS Deputy Director, IA

Dr. Brad Imler, Christian Adoptions Alliance, President

Chandler James, The Riverside Project, Director of Church Mobilization

and finally, for the concluding words after dinner,  
James Lamb, LFS, IA

At the end of the day, before dinner, there was a panel presenting and taking questions. All of the above speakers were on it, along with

Rachel Greiner, Director of Christian Life Resources

and Mollie Clark, LFS Director of Marketing.



Dr.



Diane and I were both able to attend and be enriched. It took a delayed flight, removing our connecting flight from the picture. We got an update late (!) which ended up however taking us to the *other* Houston airport. We used an Uber to get us to the Hyatt – he took us to the one downtown however! Another Uber was used and got to the dinner only 10 minutes late. Quite a day, but it was worth it overall to attend.



# Lutherans for Life of Missouri Chapters and Life Teams

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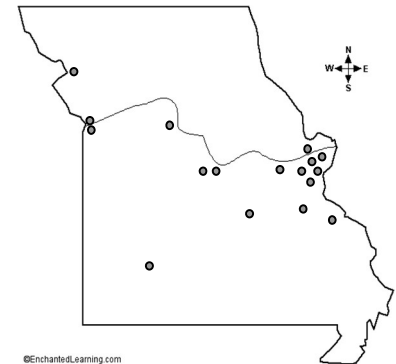
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