



## *From the President*

Dear Friends For Life,

One task expected of us as called educators was to lead chapel devotions every so often. For one of the chapels I led, I had this on the screen at the beginning: A \_ O \_ TION.

I stated that today's chapel would be about this topic. At that point one of my colleagues who had me 'figured out' stated, loudly, "abortion!" (He and I had previously had 'LIFE' discussions; he actually came to be a fully committed Lifer, rethinking some of the 'population' issues he had - yes, he was a social studies instructor)

At that point, I put up the next screen - aDoPtion. Most of the kids and teachers had a reaction, as they too expected an abortion chapel - again.

Two of my students were adopted and agreed to participate by speaking about their lives. Kristin was the eldest daughter of our pregnancy help center director at the time. She was/is vivacious and did a marvelous job sharing her story in support of adoption. The other student was a daughter of one of our teachers. This family had adopted three children from Asia plus having a natural child of their own. Ali not only made a great impression, as the kids all knew her, too, but also did a great job supporting Life via adoption. The Spirit was very much at work during that chapel time. All I had left to do was close with prayer.

A family of five (now six), the third child being adopted a few years ago, recently adopted another baby, a boy. They had to travel to Arizona to pick him up and bring him home to Cape Girardeau.

This is a very expensive sacrifice they were willing to make. He is a pastor, and she is a teacher, both in the LCMS. They needed much help financially. They applied to Lifesong and received matching grants. One of these was from our own "Adoption Fund, Sponsored by LFL of MO". This fund has been donated to by some of you. It has been described and promoted in all these newsletters ever since the board approved the funding for it. Look further in this newsletter and you will find the information about it.

They still had to raise money themselves to receive a match for whatever amount they obtained, up to the limit that our Board of LFL of MO had passed. This is collected through Lifesong, as people are donating to their adoption grants. (you can read the full account later in this newsletter)

Please continue to donate to our LFL of MO fund so that other families can experience the same joy, and help.

You can check out Lifesong at [lifesong.org](http://lifesong.org)

*At the right time, God sent forth his son, . . . to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption as sons Galatians 4: 4-5*

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

## Upcoming Events

- \* Essay and Poster Contest deadline: March 1, 2024 See information in this newsletter
- \* Leonard Wallenmeyer Award deadline: March 15, 2024 See information in this newsletter
- \* LFL of MO Annual Meeting The meeting will take place on April 6, 2024.  
The site will be Faith Lutheran Church, 1517 E Valley Water Mill Rd, Springfield, MO 65803
- \* Midwest March for Life, Jefferson City May 1, 2024

## Praise God for Zeke

Baby Ezekiel was born on December 22, 2023 in Phoenix, AZ. Official consensus for his future adoption into the Wildauer family was given on December 26, 2023. His future parents flew to get him on Christmas Eve, after hearing he was born. Since he was premature, Zeke was in NICU for several days, as they waited; and as Grandma and Grandpa took care of the other 3 children. He finally was allowed to leave and is home.

A very significant help in making this adoption possible was Lifesong. The Wildauers had to raise money on their own via this organization, which would then be matched up to a specific level. A large part of *this “level”* was a grant to Lifesong for the Wildauers from LFL of MO’s Adoption Fund (see below!)

As mentioned earlier, several of you have given to this fund, over and above your regular donations to LFL. Please, not only continue your generosity, but spread the word to others. To be clear, you are not giving directly to Lifesong – you are giving to LFL of MO’s fund. When requests are made to us, the board then acts to give to Lifesong in the family’s name. The family then seeks their own donations to Lifesong, for a matching grant.

## 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.

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.co](mailto:sharkhunter3@yahoo.co)

# DONATIONS RECEIVED

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

Zion Ladies Aid, Rockville	LFL Chap. 90, Springfield	St. John, Stringtown
Kay Meyers, Family Shield	Ken and Betty Liescheidt	Gordon and Sue Bredow
Paulette & William Allwardt	Johathan & Rachel Almstedt	Rebecca J. Shaw
Jane and Rev. Richard Thur	In honor of Silis, Lyndia, Penny, Hezekiah, Phoebe, Eden	

*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 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*

## **Lutherans For Life of Missouri**

[www.lflofmo.org](http://www.lflofmo.org)

P.O. Box 4307  
St. Louis, MO 63123

## **Lutherans For Life**

[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

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Nevada, IA 50201-1816

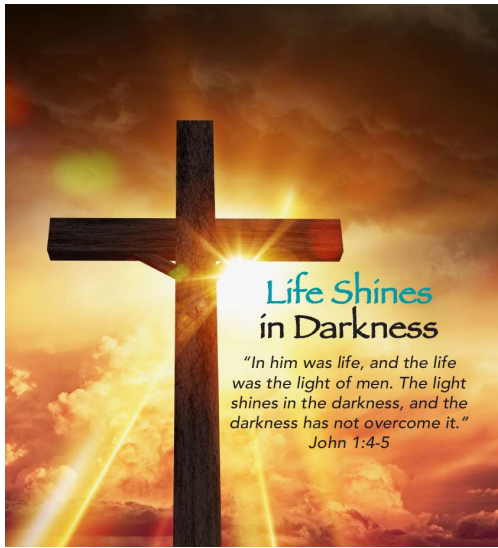
We have three **contests** coming up this year again.

The information is on the next three pages.

Please note the deadlines for each.

Also, PLEASE spread the word to the students and teachers that you know of.

Feel free to forward this newsletter to them. Thanks.



# Lutherans For Life

## 2024 Missouri Essay Contest

**Sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents**

**For Students in Grades 6-8 and 9-12**

Any student in a Lutheran school or Lutheran congregation, e.g., confirmation class or youth group, when validated by a teacher or pastor, is eligible. Students may also enter through a Lutheran home school when validated by their Lutheran pastor.

### **Contest Guidelines**

Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme: **Life Shines in Darkness** with the Bible verse: "In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:4-5

1. Not incorporating the **theme and verse** in the essay will disqualify the entry.
2. All essays must include a title. Using the theme as the title is acceptable, although it does not count as using the theme within the essay, which is required.
3. Examples of topics the essay could deal with are, **but are not limited to**, abortion, living with disabilities, adoption or foster care, infanticide, cloning, stem cell research, physician assisted suicide, euthanasia, etc.
4. Essays should include student's name, grade, school or church, email address, and phone number. All entries submitted by a teacher or pastor should include their name and email address. This information must be submitted on the rubric page used in grading the essay.
5. All sources for references, statistics and quotes should be incorporated within the essay and then included in a bibliography at the end.
  - Grades 6 - 8 should submit essays up to 400 words (body copy only).
  - Grades 9 - 12 should submit essays up to 750 words (body copy only).
6. Entries should be submitted digitally using **Microsoft WORD or Google Docs** to [dalbers.102@gmail.com](mailto:dalbers.102@gmail.com) by **3/1/2024** **Any pdf or other format submissions will not be accepted.**
7. There will be a \$100 first place award and \$50 second place award for each of the two categories. The two first place category winners will advance to the national contest. Email [dalbers.102@gmail.com](mailto:dalbers.102@gmail.com) with any questions.
8. Grand prize for the national winning entries in each category is: \$250 for first place plus free conference registration to the 2024 Lutherans For Life conference and one night stay at the conference hotel. \$125 for the second-place winner. The teacher of the winning essayist at both levels will also receive a \$100 award.
9. All entries, including exclusive copyright, become the property of Lutherans For Life.
10. For questions or resources on the sanctity of life, see [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)





# 2024 POSTER CONTEST

Sponsored by Lutherans For Life of Missouri

For students in Grades 3 through 5

Any Lutheran student or student in a Lutheran school is eligible.

## Contest Guidelines

1. This poster contest is to celebrate all life that God has created, including the preborn, the disabled, and the elderly.
2. The poster should be based on a Bible passage, hymn verse, or Sunday School song.  
The poster size should be 18" x 12".
3. Use creativity to express ideas with paint, markers, crayons, colored paper, fabric, etc.  
Anything goes as long as the poster can be hung.
4. A school may submit their winning poster digitally along with the **Student Information Form** via email to: [dalbers.102@gmail.com](mailto:dalbers.102@gmail.com) by March 1, 2024.
5. There will be a First Place Award of \$25 and a Second Place Award of \$10, which will be awarded at LFL of MO's Annual Meeting.
6. All entries become the property of LFL of MO and the actual First and Second place winning posters will be used for display by LFL of MO.
7. For questions or resources on the sanctity of life, see: [dalbers.102@gmail.com](mailto:dalbers.102@gmail.com) or [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

## Judging will be based on:

1. The focus should be on Life.
2. The poster must be based on a Bible verse, hymn, or Sunday School song verse, which may not necessarily be displayed on the poster. (Words or phrases may be chosen for the poster and the whole of the Bible verse, hymn, or song may be printed on the Student Information Form.) The Bible verse, etc. must be visually brought to Life!
3. Materials are used well to express the idea and theme of the poster.
4. Neatness and correct spelling of any words used.

# — Lutherans For Life of Missouri —

## Leonard WALLENMEYER Award

Each year we recognize high school students who, through their actions, have been gospel motivated voices for the sanctity of life.

***Applicants for the \$250 award should meet all of the following criteria:***

- Member of the 2024 Senior Class of a High School (Lutheran, Public or Homeschool) in Missouri;
- Member of a Lutheran Church;
- Recommended by a Pastor, Principal or Lutheran Pro-Life Organization Sponsor;

Commitment to “pro-life” Activities; Such life affirming activities may include visiting nursing home residents, volunteering at a homeless shelter, assisting with Life Sunday events, Pro-Life walks, diaper drives, being an active member of a student Life group, or any other activities that advocate the sanctity of and respect for all human life.

- Complete the Award Application.

***Application deadline is Friday, [March 15](#), 2024.***

***Send application to:***

Leonard Wallenmeyer - Life Award  
8806 N Richland Rd  
Willard, MO 65781-9556  
***or***  
[kdeluce3@gmail.com](mailto:kdeluce3@gmail.com)





## Chapter and Life Team Reports

**Capitol Area Chapter** Our local Lutheran High School, Calvary Lutheran High School, had 25 youths and 5 adults attend the Life March in D.C. this year. We hope to have some of them report on the trip to our group. Our local chapter President was involved in having the Monarch Jewelry ladies from Crisis Aid International come to Faith Lutheran LWML. They spoke to all in attendance about how girls and women who have been human trafficked are helped by their organization. The Monarch ladies had items to purchase. They use collected used jewelry and other scraps of fabric and wood. This helped to signify how out of being broken, God makes us whole again in a different way. Area churches also observed Life Sunday in January.

**Chapel of the Cross LC Life Team** We put together an Art Fair with the theme "*Choose Life...for God is your life and length of days*" (Deut. 30:19-20). We gave a few example Bible verses to help inspire people. The registration deadline was in December and we asked that they turn in their artwork by mid-January so that we could display all of the art in our new Life Library on Life Sunday. We had a pretty good turnout and the congregation enjoyed looking at the art. One team member also made some really neat and colorful clay hearts with 10 week old baby feet and a cross imprinted on them. We put a bowl of them on our table with our fetal models so that people could take a heart. They were very well received.



**Christ Memorial LC Life Team** The Monarch event on November 16 generated a record amount, not only for our events, but for any of the events they've held. We once again are running the Baby Bottle drive at our congregation. The Pregnancy Help Center of South County is the recipient of the moneys raised. This began on Life Sunday. Diane Albers gave Life messages to the children at both services.

**Rolla Area Chapter** We provided bulletin inserts for area congregations to recognize Life Sunday. Individual congregations have provided Bible Class snacks on Life Sunday, conducted Diaper Drives, hosted baby showers for new mothers in the congregation and utilized Thrivent Action Team Grants to assemble diapers, wipes, formula, and baby wash into handmade tote bags for local Pregnancy Resource Centers.

**St. Charles County Chapter** We had a special surprise this past December. We normally take a break for December and resume in January. But this year we saw that there would be an event of interest at our convention center: Helping Hands for the Holidays. We called and asked if we could participate. With only two weeks left, they responded and accepted our display. We quickly gathered together some volunteers and went with our fetal model display, pregnancy resource information for our local resource centers and maternity homes, Word of Hope literature and some "Precious Ones" babies to give away. We were overwhelmed by the reception that we received from the public. People were gathering at our booth in droves with their young children. They couldn't wait to show their small and teen children the baby models. They were holding them and hugging them and marveling over how tiny and perfect they were. And how they could relate to the fact that they too were this tiny once in their mother's 'tummy'. It was so exciting to see their faces light up with the realization that this is how they began. No words were necessary to see the joy and sheer amazement on their faces. It truly was such a blessing to be the most popular booth besides the booth that was giving away free coats and a free meal. The families were teaching about God's precious gift of life to their children right in front of us. They

were asking questions and were so thrilled to be given a precious one baby model of a 6- to 8-week-old to take home and share what they had learned.

There was a young mother there who was very reserved and quiet. She was very cautiously looking at our literature and seeing what we were about. She looked troubled. Her children were 3 in number about 13, 9 and 6 yrs old. They were talking to us and she was listening. Then after a long time, after we had explained the baby model ages, she put her hand near the smallest baby and looked at me with tears in her eyes and said, "I thought they didn't look like this until they were 3 months old." She was told when the heart beat begins and the stages of development. Her whole countenance changed, and she began to smile and make conversation. Like somehow, she was relieved of a burden. We never know where and why God puts us for now. We thank Him for his Sovereignty and His willingness to guide us.

**Springfield Chapter** We had a delightful Christmas celebration with the residents of a local nursing home. We sang songs (complete with bongo drums) played games, offered refreshments and gifts. It is a joy to honor those at the later stages of life. We are now preparing with gusto for our Healthy Relationship Banquet. We are inviting all 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents as we have conversations about dating, sex and good choices. We hope to counter the excessive information being fed to our kids that is not God-pleasing.

**West St. Louis County Chapter** In spite of 7° weather two weeks ago, our chapter, Life Team and St Marks LC in Eureka were blessed to hear Pastor Dar Karsten preach. Here is the background. A few months ago, a couple delivered a very heart-sick premature little boy . We lifted him in prayers for weeks and he was joined into Gods kingdom through Gods work of water and The Word of baptism. Pastor Dar spoke about how all of life is valuable in God's creation and we are created in His image. No matter how weak or strong, He loves us. We have an opportunity to support and stand for life, Just As I Am . God gives us the words to speak and the tools, such as ultrasound, pregnancy centers, and Christian teams and organizations. Afterwards we had a luncheon to celebrate with 4-month-old baby Theo and his parents. Upcoming events will be life issues discussed monthly in church, from the womb to the tomb, and outreach to the area crisis pregnancy centers.



# Lutherans for Life of Missouri Chapters and Life Teams

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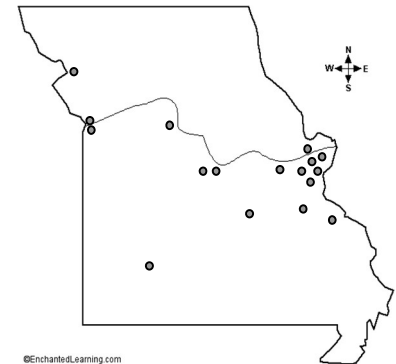
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**Put For Life Attitudes Into Action!**  
**Join Lutherans for Life Today!**

Yes! I want to join LFL...

Please select a membership category:

Annual:  \$35  \$50  \$75  Other  
Any amount is welcome!

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

*(Memberships/contributions are tax-deductible.)*

**Sponsor:** I commit to a monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I'm not interested in membership but am enclosing a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support the national efforts of LFL.

*Donate/Join online! [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter Name/# (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Church Body  AALC  AFLC  CLBA  ELCA  LCMS  Other \_\_\_\_\_

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