



## NEWSLETTER – WINTER EDITION 2018

**THE LFL-C BOARD. as of AGM Meeting Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Here to serve**

**President-Pastor Richard Juritsch**

**Treasurer-Alan Schmitt**

**Secretary – Glenn Kahle**

**LMC Coordinator-Linda Welke**

**Board Members at Large; Cliff Pyle, Pastor David Mellecke, Pastor Gregory Palmer, Adrian Rhodes, Judy Obelnycki-Newsletter Editor**

**Pastoral Advisor: To be determined**

### **Board Update:**

As of the AGM Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the terms of three Board Members had terminated. The Board is pleased to announce that all three allowed their names to stand. Alan Schmitt has been reappointed as Treasurer, Cliff Pyle will remain as Board Member at Large as will Judith Obelnycki. She will continue as Editor of LFL-C Newsletter and maintain all previous commitments, with the exception of Board secretary. We are excited to announce a new member has joined our Board and will fill the spot that was vacated over a year ago by Marian Obeda. Mr. Glenn Kahle indicated that he would be very happy to serve on the Board and has agreed to take on the office of Board Secretary. A personal note here from Judy. I thank God for the privilege to serve on this Board as a Board Member as of Nov. 2012 and then later as Board Secretary, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to the present. It is my fervent hope to be a part of this Board for a long time to come. This past year has been challenging in trying to record the Board minutes due to a benign tremour in my dominant hand. Sometimes, it is difficult to read my own handwriting and most times I rely heavily on my memory to get the job done. And that can be scary at times! So I thank God for answered prayer and Glenn Kahle for his willingness to serve.

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN – WINTER, 2018**

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on November 4, 2017 at Grace Lutheran Church in St. Catharines. As usual, for our AGM, we heard reports and had discussion regarding the work of Lutherans For Life Canada. God continues to grant us support for our work of educating Lutherans regarding life issues through donations from our supporters, despite our not being able to issue charitable tax receipts. We truly thank Him for you. We also thank Him for a new member to our Board of Directors, Mr. Glenn Kahle, who was elected to complete the year left on Mrs. Marian Obeda's term of office. Marian stepped down from the board at our 2016 AGM, though that has not stopped her from helping LFLC, when she can. Thank you to Glenn for agreeing to serve as our secretary, giving our outgoing secretary, Judy Obelnycki, a well deserved break.

As much as the discussions were good at our AGM, the highlight was a presentation by Rev. Perry Hart and his wife Tara Lynn Hart about the joys and challenges of caring for a child with special needs. In a day and age when eugenics guides much of the obstetric practices not only of Canada but the world, it is uplifting to have before us a concrete example of why pro-life work is so important. God treasures every person, regardless of appearance, learning ability, health or whatever other "disabilities" the evil one would have us label as undesirable. Jesus died to save the

“disabled” as well as the “abled.” May we continue to pray for those who have been deceived by the world into thinking that death is a solution, and in compassion share Christ’s love with them, so that by the Holy Spirit’s work, they may in turn look with compassion on the baby in the womb, the person bed-ridden with illness and the person born with extra challenges in life. Thanks be to God that Christ crucified and risen again forgives even sins against life.

## *The Slaughter of Innocents*

*“A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentations, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.” - Matt. 2:18*

It has been said that it was safer to be one of Herod’s dogs than to be one of his sons. History teaches us that Herod executed his eldest sons, along with his first few wives, because he believed they were plotting to take his throne. And so when news reached this paranoid king that a star from heaven signaled the birth of a New King, a child that was of the house and lineage of David, Herod sought to destroy Him. He would not allow this Child to become a threat. And so Herod made a choice to eliminate this inconvenience, this threat to his way of life. Herod was not about to allow his throne to slip away, not to anyone, especially not to some little child from the house of David.

From the chief priests and scribes he learned the place and roughly the time of the Child’s birth, but since the Magi did not come back to report where exactly the Child was Herod determined that it was better for the innocents of Bethlehem to die than allow this Son of David to survive. And so he ordered the death of all male born children 2 years old and under. He decided to kill them all. The consequences be damned - for the ends justify the means - he would destroy the child, even if it meant slaughtering his own subjects; better for all the innocent children to die than for this little usurper escape and take away all that was his. And with that choice, that decision, we read of the great weeping and loud lamentation of the mothers of Bethlehem who had their precious children ripped from their arms and murdered in front of their eyes. We call this heartbreaking event “the slaughter of innocents” and commemorate it in our church calendar every December 28<sup>th</sup>. A bitter and sad part of the Christmas story, and one not too many like to reflect upon at this joyous time of year. And yet, it is important that we do; that during our celebration of the Incarnation we consider all the events recorded about it in God’s holy Word. And so along with all the countless joyous Christmas hymns and carols we hear and sing this time of year there is also a heart-wrenching carol called the Coventry Carol that reflects upon the lamentation in Bethlehem. It’s certainly not one of those cheery songs you hear this time of year, but a tug on the heartstrings carol, a carol that speaks of how mankind’s sin, particularly the lust for power and control, led a man to hunt down a poor little child and in the process order the slaughter of innocents.

It may seem hard for us to imagine such a barbaric and evil thing, which may even lead us to think that it would never happen in our day, that we would never allow rulers to ascend to positions of authority who would authorize the murder of innocent helpless little children. And yet, to our great shame, the slaughter of innocents happens on an even greater scale today in this country, as well as in other so-called “enlightened” and “progressive” societies. This wicked and appalling act occurs day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year right here in this country

with the authorization of our elected leaders and under the protection of our legal system. Since 1974, over 3 million abortions have been reported in Canada alone. 3 million innocent unborn children slaughtered! This horrific number pales in comparison with our southern neighbour who since 1970 has reported around 50 million abortions. 50 million innocent unborn children!

Yet instead of Rachel weeping for her children, very few weep for these innocent victims. Instead of loud lamentations most people turn a blind eye to this wicked and evil sin. Rather the loudest cries come from activist and politicians justifying this slaughter in the name of “freedom” and “choice”. I wonder how Herod tried to justify his sin...how he tried to pacify himself in order to drown out all the cries of his people. I suppose it’s a waste of time to wonder about Herod since he’s rotting away in the eternal fires of hell, but I do wonder about us. How do we justify ourselves for our inaction? How do we, who believe in the Word of God and recognize that life begins in the womb justify our silence, our unwillingness to speak out and protect those who are unable to defend themselves? How do we justify voting for politicians who are advocates of this crime against humanity?

The sin that many of us are guilty of is the sin of omission. The slaughter of innocents happens right here today and we do very little about it or nothing at all. We commemorate the innocents of Bethlehem each year, but what about our innocents - do we even bother to weep and lament for them? Surely we must repent! We must awake from our sinful sleep and seek God’s mercy and forgiveness. We must turn to His life-giving Word for guidance and wisdom, and for the strength and courage to do what is good and right and be the instruments God calls on us to be.

Our Lord Jesus was spared that fateful day in Bethlehem to grant us these things. God the Father would not allow the darkness of sin to overcome the Light He sent to save us, and so He sent His messenger to warn Joseph and commanded him to take the Child and Mary and flee to Egypt. The gold, frankincense and myrrh that the Wise Men gave the Christ Child would have certainly helped with the moving and living expenses, and there was a large colony of Jews living in Egypt at the time for the Holy Family to dwell amongst. The very place where Joseph, the son of Jacob, would bring his family to seek refuge, now again, many generations later, became the place where another Joseph would seek refuge for His wife and the Son of God in flesh.

As we heard in our Epistle Lesson from Galatians: *“When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”* As Saint Paul teaches us here, the Christ Child was sent to this world and became Man to redeem and save us from the curse of the Law, from the very Law that reveals our sin and condemns us to eternal death. By His great act of sacrificial love and compassion He redeemed and saved us from this fate and by His grace has made us adopted children of God. And not only this, but as our Epistle Lesson goes on to teach us, God also sends into our hearts His Holy Spirit to create in us faith to believe and trust in Him, faith to know God’s will and a heart to follow it. And God’s will is for us to be His workmen, His hands and voice in the world, to speak out against those who violate the Law of God and call on them to repent, especially those who do not recognize the sanctity of life, and to defend the downtrodden, the voiceless and vulnerable. In our society of darkness and death, we as the adopted children of God are called upon to point people to the Light of Life, the One who came to bring an end to death and shine the Light of salvation that leads to eternal life. And the means that God uses to deliver those who dwell in darkness into His marvelous Light is the gift of forgiveness, the gift He freely offers to the whole world, even to those who have made the choice to end the life of someone He created. And so let us pray that the Holy Spirit will ever keep us faithful so that we may always turn to and

embrace the forgiveness we have in Christ Jesus. And let us also pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire and lead the children of God to speak His life-giving Word to the world, so that others may come to know God and embrace His gifts, especially the gift of life that begins in the womb and in Christ Jesus will live forever.

*-Sermon from Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, from Pastor Mark Smith, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Halifax, N.S.*

## **ONTARIO CRIMINALIZES PRO-LIFE SPEECH AND OUTREACH OUTSIDE ABORTUARIES**

*(With permission from Campaign Life Coalition Canada, Excerpt from November 2017 Newsletter)*

Joining British Columbia and Newfoundland, on October 25, members of the Provincial Parliament in Ontario voted 86-1 to enact bubble zones, between 50 to 150 meters, outside of private abortuaries, hospitals where abortions are committed, pharmacies where the deadly abortion drug RU-486 is dispensed, and the houses of abortionists and abortion workers. Even Planned Parenthood centres in Toronto and Ottawa requested 'protection' once they too, start distributing the abortion pill. The 'Safe Access to Abortion Services Act, 2017' (Bill 163), which was introduced by Attorney General Yasir Naqvi on October 5th, was rushed through the legislature, after all the parties cut a deal to fast-track it and make it law as soon as possible. Independent/Trillium Party MPP Jack MacLaren, Carleton-Mississippi Mills was the only member to vote against this bill and the only MPP to present our CLC petition (signed by thousands of Ontarians) in the Legislature. All other pro-life MPPs on record, didn't show up to vote. PC leader Patrick Brown was in full support of this bill as well. In our press release following the vote, Jim Hughes stated that "this law, which was drafted by Planned Parenthood and their allies in the abortion business, using feeling-based anecdotes and hearsay, lacked any real evidence that backed their claims of the war-like atmosphere outside abortion facilities," adding that "this law is the first step in silencing and criminalizing speech, that is not the official opinion of the state. The whole process of fast-tracking this bill, and slandering pro-life people throughout, was an outrage".

**Leading up to the vote, CLC supporters across the province were encouraged to deliver petitions against Bill 163. Joan LePage together with Frank J. Barrett read out the petition to MPP Nathalie Des Rosiers's (Ottawa-Vanier) assistant. The MPP was away. More than 3,500 Ontarians signed the paper petition while an additional 3,000 signed the online petition.**

This bill, now law, is a direct attack on the freedom of speech, expression, and assembly of pro-life Canadians. It was introduced to defame and slander pro-life people as violent and hateful, and worst of all, it was created to protect the grisly business of abortion, while denying women in need, access to alternatives to abortion, and to the compassionate care and support that exists within the pro-life movement, unlike the money-driven abortion industry which exploits women and kills their children before birth.

The peaceful, prayerful and respectful witnessing outside abortion centres that so many of us have been engaging in for decades is now illegal. If you break the law, you may face a fine of up to \$5,000 and up to 6 months in jail. To think, that the penalties for praying and witnessing inside a bubble zone are more severe than for driving under the influence, which directly puts the lives of others at risk of death.

Following the second reading and vote, Campaign Life Coalition presented our opposition to the bill at the public committee hearing, in front of a committee which was made up of pro-abortion MPPs from all three parties. Although, the MPPs made it clear that they will pass this bill, it was our duty to speak on behalf of pro-lifers from across the province and country, to stand up for their freedom of speech, expression and assembly, and to stand up for the right for women to have access to alternatives to abortion. Throughout the day, the committee heard from Planned Parenthood spokes-people and other pro-abortion

organizations repeating the same lies over and over again. They claimed that harassment was on the rise and women and abortion workers feared for their lives. They demonized pro-lifers as hateful and violent. They provided no evidence for this, other than long-rebutted examples from the 1980's. But of course, the committee members welcomed these false accusations and instead of asking for hard evidence, they thanked them for their input in helping draft the legislation and often asked the pro-abortion speakers soft questions in order to give them more time to elaborate on their arguments.

That same day, CLC held a press conference inside the Queen's Park press gallery in order to tell the other hundreds of side of story. The press conference featured life stories from women by offering help and support. Many of them chose life and continue to have a friendship with Enza. Genevieve Carson, who is the 40 Days for Life Organizer in Mississauga shared her experience of this peaceful prayerful campaign, and read out a letter that was given to the campaign by a woman who decided to choose life for her baby after witnessing the dedication and peacefulness of 40 Days for Life prayer volunteers. Lastly, Angelina Steenstra, national coordinator for Silent No More Awareness Campaign shared her testimony and her regret that no one had been there in her moment of need. The speakers were joined by pro-life women holding up real photos of the moms and babies, that were spared from abortion, after encountering pro-life out-reach on their way to their abortion appointment. Regardless of the law passing, we must remember to not fall into despair. Pro-lifers have always been able to take punches and keep moving forward. The first step is to contact your MPP and demand an explanation for why they voted for or why they didn't show up to vote. For videos of our committee hearing and/or our press conference go to [www.youtube.com/campaignlifetv](http://www.youtube.com/campaignlifetv).

### Some Statistics And Facts-Submitted By John Krimm

There's an old African tribal proverb that says, "Who knows whose womb carries the chief?" This simple truth is powerful for anyone paying attention.

Here is an interesting list of those who were almost aborted by their often young teen-aged mothers, but on reconsideration were not;

- **Steve Jobs** - who was adopted - "I wanted to meet her [his birth mother] mostly to see if she was OK and to thank her, because I'm glad I didn't end up as an abortion. She was 23 and she went through a lot to have me"
- **Karol Józef Wojtyła (Pope John Paul II)** - mother advised by doctors to have an abortion after previously losing her daughter shortly after birth
- **Jack Nicholson** - mother was 17 and a showgirl dancer - he was raised by his maternal grandparents (presented as his parents) and his mother presented as his much older sister - learned after their deaths the true story - "My only emotion is gratitude, literally, for my life. It was the moral character of my mother and grandmother that ensured I had not been aborted. I'm positively against it. I don't have the right to any other view".
- **Celine Dion** - was 14th and last child with family advising her mother to get abortion - credits priest for convincing her mother not to abort
- **Andrea Bocelli** - mother advised to abort by doctors after misdiagnosis; she actually had appendicitis
- **Tim Tebow** - doctors advised his mother to abort him due to her health issues
- **Justin Bieber** - mother got pregnant at 17 and was encouraged by several people to abort the child

The latest statistics to 2017 are:

1. Why abortions are done<sup>1</sup> in USA:

- 93% of all abortions are performed for social reasons [an unplanned/unwanted pregnancy]
- 1% performed following a rape
- 6% occur due to mother's health risk

Experience in Canada is identical based on statistics from 1969 to 2016<sup>2</sup>.

2. total since Wade vs Roe in 1973 - to 2017, 60.1 million (60% white, 30% black)<sup>3</sup> for USA. In Canada, 4 million since 1969<sup>2</sup>
3. usually performed on young women below the age of 25. About 52% of all U.S. abortions are performed on women in this age range<sup>4</sup>
4. all U.S. woman have a 43% chance of having an abortion before they turn 45<sup>5</sup>

**References:**

<sup>1</sup> Guttmacher Institute (GI) 1987 and 2004 studies - USA

<sup>2</sup> Campaign for Life Coalition - Canada

<sup>3</sup> GI 1973-2014, with projections of 926,190 for 2015-17. Also an estimated possible under-count of 3-5%, so additional 3% is factored into the overall total - USA

<sup>4</sup> GI, 2016 - *Characteristics of U.S. Abortion Patients in 2014 and Changes Since 2008*, New York, USA

<sup>5</sup> GI, 1992 - USA

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LFL-C has a Facebook page. Just type in Lutherans for Life-Canada on your Facebook search bar or Google it.

**LUTHERANS FOR LIFE-CANADA, IS A MINISTRY AND A LISTED SERVICE ORGANIZATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCH CANADA.**

\*\*\*\*UPCOMING EVENT, MARCH FOR LIFE, MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2018, ON PARLIAMENT HILL, OTTAWA, ON.\*\*\*\*

Your financial support is greatly appreciated.  
Please continue to keep this ministry of Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life, in your prayers.

**WE GIVE THANKS for your gifts**

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*Annual Membership: \$15.00/year  
Further donations gratefully accepted.*

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Please send this form with cheque to:  
Lutherans for Life-Canada  
C/o Mr. Alan Schmitt, Treasurer  
75 Blackthorne Crescent  
London ON N6J 4B3

**Eight Objectives of the LFL-C are:**

1. To provide an organization through which Lutheran Christians can unite to share dialogue and give common witness within the Church and society to their concern for the value and dignity of all human life;
2. To strengthen the existing common bond of concern by bringing Lutherans of like mind into contact with one another;
3. To gather and share pertinent information with its membership and develop strategies for witness and response;
4. To develop and distribute educational materials based upon the Word of God;
5. To identify resource people who can write and speak on behalf of the organization;
6. To monitor public and private action in order to enhance the right to life;
7. To respond to and co-operate with other groups in society who share similar concerns; and
8. To examine and correct popular but misleading stereotypes regarding pro-life advocacy.

To contact LFL-C please email us at:  
[info@lutheransforlife-canada.ca](mailto:info@lutheransforlife-canada.ca)

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