

Lutherans for Life – Canada Newsletter Fall Edition 2006



From the President of Lutherans for Life – Canada:

What is Lutherans for Life – Canada? Lutherans for Life – Canada is a small group of Lutheran Christians who are interested in educating fellow-Lutherans on “life matters.” The task is daunting given the small number of Lutherans who have passion for this work.

Since Lutherans for Life – Canada was formed it has grown very slowly. There have been pleasant sounding resolutions passed at conventions and some pastors have dared to preach about life issues from the pulpit, but by and large, there has been little visible support from Pastors and congregations in the development of Lutherans for Life – Canada. Someone has observed that the stands seem to be fairly full of people cheering us on, but few people want to get into the game and play!

Some people have expressed how upset they are with the decision of Revenue Canada not to grant LFL-C charitable status. No doubt, the decision of Revenue Canada is not favourable for LFL-C, but the greater challenge and/or obstacle to the organization’s existence lies within the Lutheran church itself and the general indifference that besets our church on so many life issues that truly matter!

Close to 115,000 abortions are conducted in Canada each year; more and more of our own members are choosing to live together before marriage; embryonic stem cell research destroys human life and many of our members cheer it on because the “end justifies the means”; test-tube conception has become so routine that some of our members who are struggling to conceive a child consider the option without thinking through the biblical and ethical ramifications. I could go on, but I think you get the point.

We really do need a Lutherans for Life – Canada. We need such an organization because it shines a light on life issues that matter to our Creator! We need a Lutherans for Life because so many people broken by sin in this life need to hear of a loving, forgiving Saviour who can heal their broken hearts and lives. We need Lutherans for Life – Canada because as the Holy Spirit causes His people to grow in sanctification they need God’s Word to guide them in life’s decisions.

This is my final report as President of LFL-C. Someone else will be selected from those elected to the board to serve in this capacity. It has been my honour to serve with Rev. Ron Mohr, Rev. Deane Detlefsen, Mrs. Marian Obeda, Mrs. Shirley Witt, Mrs. Linda Welke and Mr. Cliff Pyle. I thank Mr. Jeffrey Kriwetz for all the energy he expended, and the advice he gave, as our lawyer, during the appeal process with Revenue Canada. I thank the LWML and individuals and congregations who have supported LFL-C with their prayers and financial donations.

May I make one final appeal as President: Will you please get involved with LFL-C? Pray for the growth of the organization. Become a Life Ministry Coordinator in your congregation. Ask your pastor to lead a Bible study(ies) on life issues and to preach sermons on these subjects as well. And Pastors: please don't be afraid to discuss these issues. You will find that the Lord will present you with many opportunities to minister to hurting and confused people with the Word of God!

May the Lord of life continue to grant you life!

His servant for life,

Dr. Glenn E. Schaeffer
President, LFL-C

Make the Connection ... Join Lutherans for Life – Canada!

When you make an annual financial donation of any amount you become a member of Lutherans for Life – Canada. We place you on our mailing list and send you a quarterly newsletter.

Unfortunately, you are not able to receive a charitable receipt for your donation since LFL-C does not have charitable status with Revenue Canada.

You can send your donation to: Rev. Ron Mohr, Lutherans for Life – Canada 14 Glendale Drive, Tillsonburg, ON N4G 1J2.

SAFE CHOICES for TEENS



- Practice not yet sex or saved sex, not “safe sex.”
- Know what YOU won’t let yourself do before you leave home on a date.
- Know the difference between lust and love.
- Don’t be pressured into doing something you know is wrong.
- Give your hormones a break – don’t be alone with your girl or guy night after night after night.
- When your conscience warns you, stop before you go too far!
- Respect your date as you want your future wife or husband to be respected.
- Be accountable to God – your parents – yourself – your someday wife or husband.
- Be cool without drugs and alcohol.
- Choose friends who respect your hopes and dreams [and values].
- Even if you said, “yes” when you should have said “no,” don’t consider marriage if there is no love, no trust, no shared faith.

-- From the brochure : *Real Love Real Life* produced by LFL-USA.

Charitable Status for LFL-C Denied by Revenue Canada!!!

Revenue Canada has rejected Lutherans for Life – Canada’s application for charitable status.



LFL-C had asked to be considered as a charity under two categories – the advancement of religion or the advancement of education. In his ruling, Mr. Picard writes, “*we conclude that its [LFL-C] main object is pro-life advocacy and not advancement of religion as defined by the courts.*” He also ruled that LFL-C does not qualify under the advancement of education because

“educational activities do require making an unbiased presentation of the facts according to the SCC [Supreme Court of Canada].”

In reviewing LFL-Cs printed materials, website, and activities, he concluded that, *“We agree with the CD [Charities Directorate] that these activities and materials present opinions on controversial issues with a certain degree of bias and persuasion that places the organization’s goals within the political scope in the broad sense of the term. These activities are not charitable and require more than 10% of the charity’s resources.”*

LFL-C disagrees with the ruling. The Board of Directors of LFL-C is looking at various options open to them. LFL-C’s president, Dr. Glenn Schaeffer noted, *“Although this is a disappointing setback it will not stop us from continuing to educate fellow Lutherans concerning life issues.”*

Lutherans for Life -- Canada's stated purpose is *“to witness to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God.”* The organization was formed at the urging of a convention resolution of Lutheran Church -- Canada -- a Canadian church body representing close to 80,000 Canadians.

Why Not Just Live Together?

God created marriage when He brought Adam and Eve together in the garden. Although marriage between a man and a woman is a biblical concept, even non-Christian cultures have traditions about the roles of a husband and wife. In a married relationship, the man protects and provides for his wife and family. The woman is then enabled to fulfill her role as nurturer and caregiver.



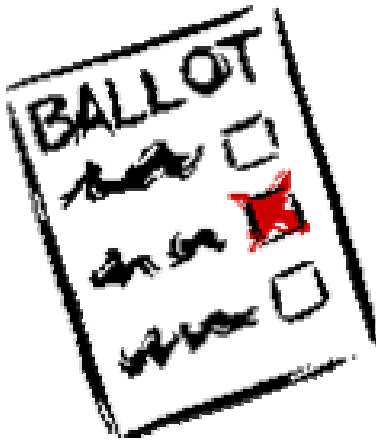
The bond of marriage creates an environment of trust and stability so that it can mature to new depths of love and understanding. Unconditional love does not cage a mate but enables a loved one to be the person they are. Much of the real joy in marriage comes from *giving*, not *getting*. When husband and wife are faithfully committed to one another, their children can grow up with identity, purpose and a desire to serve others.

“Playing house” should not be confused with “making a home.” While living together may seem “safe,” it certainly is not secure. The promise to “love, honor, and cherish” is the thread that weaves through a healthy home. But the lack of commitment creates an environment of fear and distrust.

(From a brochure, *“Why Not Just Live Together?”* developed by LFL-USA.)

Fall Marriage Vote! – Please Act!

(Editor: Since LFL-C is accused of being a political advocacy group for life issues, we might as well advocate for a life issue !)



The Conservative government is planning to revisit the question of “marriage” sometime this Fall as they may open Bill C-38, passed by parliament in June 2005, for reconsideration. By all counts the vote will be close on restoring the “traditional” definition of marriage. The Block and the NDP are determined to advance the homosexual agenda and same-sex marriage as are many other MPs in the other two major parties. Thus, it is important for those of us who believe in the biblical view of marriage to contact our MP and encourage him/her to vote to restore the traditional definition of marriage.

President Ralph Mayan of Lutheran Church – Canada has written an excellent article in *The Canadian Lutheran* (July/August 2006, p. 42) entitled, “Time to Exercise our Citizenship.” You are encouraged to read it! (It is available online at: www.lutheranchurch.ca.) In this article, President Mayan reminds us that “*marriage is not merely a social arrangement of human origin. God established marriage at the time of creation.*” He mentions that the ABC District passed a resolution at their District Convention this past summer that affirms “*the scriptural definition of marriage*” and encourages congregations “*to send letters to all Members of Parliament.*” The resolution also encourages “*pastors and congregations to conduct Bible studies, provide educational materials and deliver sermons reaffirming the scriptural definition of marriage so that the laity may speak for the biblical definition of marriage with confidence.*” President Mayan encourages all pastors and congregations of LCC to do the same!

Life News from Around the World:



Discrimination against unborn females in India: At least 10 million female unborn children have been illegally aborted in India over the last 20 years by women desperate to have a son. This means that each year half a million girls have been aborted. Women in India who give birth to girls are often shunned or abused. (Reported in Daily Mail, 7/3)

Working to End a holocaust in Israel: An Israeli group, Efrat, offers a thousand U.S. dollars worth of support to poor Jewish women if they choose not to have an abortion. Dr. Eli Schussheim, who founded and directs Efrat says, *“Even if we had 10 million Jews here and there wasn’t a demographic problem, I would still do it. In 29 years, I haven’t has one case where a woman said she regretted it.”* (Reported in Reuters, 5/17)

Sad News from Columbia: The first authorized abortions have reportedly taken place in Columbia after the Constitutional Court decided to de-penalize abortion. (From: LifeSiteNews.com., 7/24)

The Dominican Republic Gets It Right: The Dominican Republic parliament rejected a proposal to legalize abortion for rape victims. (From LifeSiteNews.com., 7/27)

“Each life has hope” – Roberta Bandy, speaking at the LFL-USA national conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, (July 14-16), shared her and her husband’s experience raising a handicapped son, Rob, their first born child, along with four other children. She said, *“Each life has hope, meaning, and purpose” because through Christ that life was “bought at a price.” Rob lived for 29 years. We know his life had value because we saw evidence of it each and every day ... to this day.* *“He made us stronger and wiser” and taught “duty, humility, self-sacrifice, grace, and peace ... [Rob] reflected Christ’s humility more than any other person I have ever known.”* Rob’s story is told by Roberta in her book, *“The Dance Goes On.”* (Reported in LifeDate, Fall 2006, p. 16)

British Columbia Promotes Gay Agenda in the Classroom: The British Columbia Education Ministry has given gay activists Peter Corren and Murray Corren a prominent role in the development of the province’s school curriculum on sexuality. The *National Post* criticized the move: “*The minister of education has no right to give privileged access to the school curriculum – especially on a matter as sensitive as homosexuality – to activists of any sort. The public schools are to serve the public good, not to advance particular agendas.*” (Reported in *The Interim*, Oct. 2006, p. 2)

Liberal Leadership Hopefuls Avoid Moral Issues: Of the ten current or former leadership hopefuls, not one has unambiguously pro-life credentials and nearly all of them (based on their past record) are identifiably pro-abortion and anti-family. (Reported in *The Interim*, Oct. 2006, p. 3)

Some Resources Available Through LFL-USA

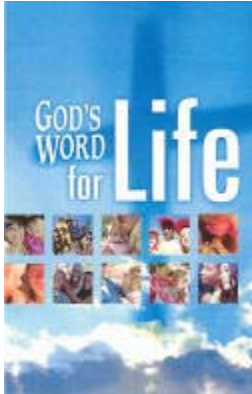
Speak Up for Life – That’s what Lutherans for Life encourages God’s people to do! It is tragically true that too often the Church, as a whole, has failed to speak up for life or has done so weakly. It is also especially disappointing since God Himself has never been silent when it comes to life. This booklet takes a look at life issues based on *Luther’s Small Catechism*. Item 212B. \$0.35 (US) ea.

Is Abortion Allowed in Cases of Rape or Incest? Dr. Jean Garton takes a close look at abortion in cases of rape and incest through this brief study of 2 Kings 4:16. Item 132T. \$0.25 (US) ea.

Tips for Teens on How to Say “No” – Topics include: making a commitment, things to avoid, planning ahead, dating someone with the same values, breaking off a relationship, waiting to date, dating someone your own age, and being friends first. Item 602T. \$0.25 (US) ea.

To order these resources or to see what other resources are available from LFL-USA go to: www.lutheransforlife.org.

***GOD'S WORD for Life* is Now Available from LFL (USA)!!!**



Lutherans for Life (USA) and *GOD'S WORD* have developed a Bible that contains articles and commentaries. These articles and commentaries will enable you to connect God's positive for Life message with a variety of life issues and concerns.

- **Facing an unplanned pregnancy?** There's an entire section for you.
- **End-of-life concerns?** You'll find words of strength and hope.
- **Burdened by a past decision?** *GOD'S WORD for Life* points you to the Word of Life, Jesus, in whom you can find real forgiveness and healing.
- **Confused about biotechnologies?** You'll find tremendous insights in these pages.
- **Need encouragement?** *GOD'S WORD for Life* offers encouragement to those who are actively dealing with life issues.

GOD'S WORD for Life can be ordered on-line at www.lutheransforlife.org/gwfl.htm. or by calling 1-888-364-LIFE (8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, Mon-Fri.)

The Paperback edition is: \$19.95 (US). A case of 10 costs \$170.00 (US)
 The Hardcover is \$24.95 (US). A case of 10 costs \$220.00 (US). Shipping, handling, etc. is extra.