

# Lutherans for Life – Canada

## Newsletter Edition: Winter 2006

### The President's Reflections:

In Isaiah 40 a voice says, "*Cry out.*" And the prophet responds, "*What shall I cry out?*" (6) I have asked myself that question many times this past year as President of Lutherans for Life – Canada. What shall I cry out that will stir the apathetic hearts of fellow-pastors and Lutheran laity that will stir them to rise up and defend the lives of the unborn, the developmentally disabled, and the elderly? What shall I cry out to the women – teenagers, university students, career aspirants, single or married – who will discover in a few short months that they are destined to be mothers, but instead of joy and excitement, a cold fear and dread grips their hearts? What shall I cry out that will enlighten the darkened minds of those who reject God as Creator and Lord and consequently experiment with life as though they are God? What shall I cry out that will awaken the spiritually dead so that they might experience life in all its fullness in Christ?

What shall I cry out? God provides the answer! To those who search for the "fountain of youth" or who live in the denial of death's reality, the LORD says, "*Cry out that all men are as grass and just as the grass withers and the flowers fall so all people will wither and die!*" (6b-7) To those who have darkened their minds by the foolishness of man's wisdom, the LORD says, "*Cry out with the Word of our God because all the promises he makes in his Word endure forever!*" (8) To those who are wounded by the trials and tribulations of life, the LORD says, "*Cry out with good tidings ... the good tidings that bring great joy ... that our God tends his flock like a shepherd: he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.*" (11) It is through these glad tidings in God's Word that our Lord "*gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak for those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles and they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*" (29-31)

During the year of 2005, Lutherans for Life – Canada have been "crying out". We have been crying out to fellow-Lutherans inviting them to become involved in the development of Lutherans for Life – Canada by becoming a donor and as Life Ministry Coordinators in their respective congregations sharing information about life issues. We have cried out to fellow Lutherans by sharing with them pamphlets and other resources that provide them with information concerning abortion, euthanasia, living wills, cloning, stem cell research, dating, sexual intercourse, marriage, and so on.

Lutherans for Life – Canada have been crying out to Revenue Canada trying to convince them that we should be granted charitable status. Thus far, Revenue Canada has ruled against our application, but we continue to cry out! I cannot adequately express my thanks to Mr. Jeffrey Kriwetz who has donated many hours of his time and his skills as a lawyer to authoring our appeals and most recently, the Notice of Objection. I also thank Mr. Cliff Pyle for the work he

has done in order to get Mr. Maurice Vellacott, MP for Saskatoon-Wanuskewan, to help us in our appeal. In particular, one of Mr. Vellacott's assistants, Barbara McAdorey, has provided us with in-depth research that became part of the Notice of Objection.

I thank all of you who have supported Lutherans for Life – Canada with your prayers, your monetary donations, your letters and emails of encouragement, and your willingness to serve as congregational Life Ministry Coordinators. I encourage you to become more involved in educating fellow Lutherans about life issues in your congregations by providing Lutherans for Life materials. I encourage you to become involved in your local area Right to Life group and to serve people in your community by becoming involved in pregnancy service centres, hospitals, palliative and hospice care centres, woman's shelters and so on. The Lord provides us with countless opportunities to enrich the lives of others through our willingness to serve other people.

During 2006 Lutherans for Life – Canada:

- will continue to promote Lutherans for Life in eastern Canada, but we need to grow in central and western Canada as well. Please ask for brochures and other materials to promote Lutherans for Life in your congregation. Visit our website (and the Lutherans for Life -- USA website. Encourage your congregational leadership to have a Life Sunday. Volunteer to be a Life Ministry Coordinator.
- will continue to provide information for fellow Lutherans concerning life issues. Watch for us at conventions and rallies. Volunteer to set up and staff a booth at one of the District Conventions this summer!
- will continue to petition Revenue Canada to grant us charitable status.
- will continue to cry out the "good tidings" the Lord has given us in his enduring Word. His Word alone can bring true comfort and lasting healing to his people.

Finally, I thank God for my fellow-directors: Mrs. Shirley Witt, Mrs. Marian Obeda, Rev. Deane Detlefsen, and Rev. Ron Mohr. Thank you for your dedication to the Lord. Thank you for being the Lord's servants for life. Thank you for sharing our Lord's good tidings with me.

His servant for life,

Rev. Dr. Glenn Schaeffer  
President, LFL-C



# LFL-C Annual Meeting Report

A general meeting of Lutherans for Life – Canada was held at Christ Our King Lutheran Church in Mississauga, Ontario on November 19, 2005.

A guest speaker at this meeting was Mr. Paul Szabo, MP for Mississauga South. Mr. Szabo distributed a speech he made in Parliament concerning the Charter of Rights and Freedom and the definition of marriage. He also updated the attendees on Bill C-407 which addresses euthanasia. He also stated that there is no bill approving embryonic stem cell research, only stem cell research.



Pastor Ron Mohr presented the topic of the day, “Marriage and the Scriptures.” Discussion was held on what the Bible has to say about marriage, the threats to marriage and how marriages can be fortified by God’s love.

Dr. Schaeffer was not able to be present for this meeting but his report (see the President’s reflections above) was distributed and read by Pastor Mohr.

One of the highlights of the day was the election of officers. Those elected to serve LFL-C are: Dr. Glenn Schaeffer (Edmonton, AB), Rev. Ron Mohr (Tillsonburg, ON), Rev. Deane Detlefsen (Pembroke, ON), Mrs. Marian Obeda (London, ON), Mrs. Pat Hansard (Stony Plain, AB), Mr. Cliff Pyle (Saskatoon, SK) and Mrs. Linda Welke (London, ON).

Mrs. Shirley Witt was not reelected to serve on the Board. Shirley has been an avid supporter and promoter of Lutherans for Life for many years. We thank the Lord for Shirley’s willingness to serve the Lord in the area of the sanctity of human life.

## LFL-C Appeals Revenue Canada’s Charitable Status Decision

Mr. Jeffrey A.L. Kriwetz, of the law firm, Garfinkle and Biderman in Toronto, has submitted LFL-C’s Notice of Objection to the Tax and Charities Appeals Directorate. LFL-C’s case will now be reviewed. As previously reported, Revenue Canada has rejected LFL-C’s application for charitable status.

Please keep this matter in your prayers. We know the educational work of LFL-C on life issues can, and will, continue with or without charitable status. But, if LFL-C is to receive Listed Service Organization (LSO) status in Lutheran Church – Canada it must receive charitable status. Without LSO status LFL-C is limited in what it can and cannot do to promote its work within Lutheran Church – Canada.

## Life Sunday Materials Are Available on On-Line



It's not too early to consider having a Life Sunday at your church. The recommended day for Life Sunday in Lutheran Church – Canada is on Mother's Day, but you are encouraged to observe Life Sunday at any time throughout the year.

Sermons, children's messages, orders of services, and other resources (most are free!) are available on-line at: [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org). Dr. Schaeffer, President of Lutherans for Life – Canada, is one of

the sermon contributors. His sermon, "In Life, in Death, Lord Abide with Me" has a unique Canadian focus.

***LFL-C has also produced Life Sunday Resources:  
They are available at our Lutherans For Life – Canada website:***

**[www.lutheransforlife-canada.ca](http://www.lutheransforlife-canada.ca)**

### **Dr. James I. Lamb: To Be a Keynote Speaker in Edmonton**



Dr. James Lamb, Executive Director of Lutherans for Life in the United States, will be in the Edmonton area from February 16-19<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Lamb will address seminarians, Concordia University students, and other church workers at a special convocation to be held at the seminary.

On Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> a day-long Life-Issues conference with the theme "Love Life", will be held at the Robert Tegler Centre on the campus of Concordia University College of Alberta. Dr. Lamb will be one of the key-note speakers. The theme of his two presentations will be: "*The Value of Human Life*" & "*Living with Dying.*"

Dr. Stephen Genius: a local doctor and well-known author will present, "The Sexual Revolution: Reality Strikes Back." In addition to these two speakers, there will be numerous workshops dealing with topics such as: "Hope & Healing after Abortion;" "End of Life Decisions: A Political & Medical Perspective;" "Biotechnology and Theology;" "How to Talk to Your Kids About Sex" and "Personal Care Directives".

The ***Love Life*** conference begins at 9:30 a.m. (sharp!) and concludes at 5:00 p.m. The Pre-registration deadline is February 6 and the cost is \$15.00 per person. The student fee is \$5.00 per student. Registration at the door is \$20.00 per person

Registration forms are available online at: [www.lccabc.ca](http://www.lccabc.ca) after January 16<sup>th</sup> and some will be sent to Lutheran Church – Canada congregations in Alberta.

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS:**

Since Rev. Dr. Glenn Schaeffer, the President of Lutherans for Life – Canada, has accepted the Lord's call to serve as Executive Assistant – Outreach for the Alberta—British Columbia District of Lutheran Church – Canada, the new mailing address for Lutherans for Life – Canada is:

**Lutherans for Life – Canada  
7100 Ada Boulevard  
Edmonton, AB  
T5B 4E4**

*Please send all donations to: Rev. Ron Mohr at 14 Glendale Dr. Tillsonburg, Ontario, N4G 1J2.  
Cheques should be made out to: Lutherans for Life – Canada.*

## **World News:**

### **Perhaps the Largest Mass Grave in America Is Remembered On its 20-Year**

**Anniversary** by Rich Buhler / Aimee Herd reporting : Oct 11, 2005.

Rich Buhler, a special correspondent to ASSIST News Service, remembers the day maybe the largest mass grave, holding 16,500 unborn babies, was sealed, on October 6th, 1985. There isn't anything that points you to the site in the Odd Fellows cemetery in East Los Angeles. You have to search for it, but it's there on the east side of the grounds marked only by a flat gravestone that says "IN MEMORY OF THE 16,500 PRECIOUS UNBORN BURIED HERE. OCT 6, 1985."



The story that led to the burial came to light in February of 1982 when workers opened a large shipping container that had been repossessed from the owner of a medical lab in Southern California. It was filled with buckets of the results of thousands of abortions.

Los Angeles county supervisors faced a dilemma about what to do with the remains and a feminist lawsuit that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court ordered that they couldn't be buried with religious ceremony because that would be taking sides in the abortion debate.

But on October 6, 1985, the date of the burial, there was a crowd of us who had independently come to do what the county could not do: honor the lives and mourn the deaths of the children being laid to rest. I had the privilege of being one of those who participated in the service that day and it was an overwhelming experience as we stood at the graveside of thousands of children who by that time would have been three years old and playing in the Southern California sunshine.

During the ceremony, County Supervisor Michael Antonovich read a telegram from President Reagan. In it Mr. Reagan likened the Supreme Court decisions legalizing abortion to decisions that upheld slavery prior to the Civil War. He said, "Once again a whole category of human beings has been ruled outside the protection of the law by a court ruling which clashed with our deepest moral convictions."

That telegram got fresh national attention during the confirmation debate around John Roberts' nomination to be the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. As associate White House counsel in 1985 he was asked to review the text of President Reagan's statement.



For several years, the grave of the babies was unmarked because of conflict over what to say on a gravestone. I had the privilege of again being a part of the service that later dedicated the memorial marker.

In my remarks I speculated what the demographics might be of the children buried there. If they were representative of the nation as a whole, about 8,000 of them were boys and 9,000 were girls. Had they lived, 1,600 of them would have been left handed, nearly 4,000 of them Catholic, 2,300 Baptists,

and more than 160 Episcopalians. About 1,600 would have become teachers, more than 13,000 high school graduates and more than 3,500 college grads. Nearly 2,000 would have been executives, 1,600 in sales, and a little more than 2,000 would have been professionals.

These are woefully unscientific numbers, but illustrate the fact that these children were not the medical equivalent of amputated limbs or surgically discarded cartilage. Until abortion intervened, every one of them was alive in safety of their mother's wombs and had beating hearts. Some of them were old enough that you could have seen whether they had grandpa's dimple or momma's nose. Where the comparison with the national population breaks down the most is with race. Because of the locations of the clinics where their abortions took place a disproportionate number of the children were minorities.

Yesterday, I paused to think about the children buried in the Odd Fellows cemetery. I try to drop by and visit their grave whenever I can. Not only to remember them but the more than 100 million other babies who like them have been the deprived of the opportunity to experience birth and life but who unlike them do not have a grave. (Source: Breaking Christian News)

***To stay Updated on Life News in Canada, the United States and around the world, check out: [www.LifeSiteNews.com](http://www.LifeSiteNews.com). It has a wealth of research material for schools, projects and reports. It also provides related press releases, UNICEF expose, election and political coverage. It covers all kinds of cultural, life and family issues.***