

Lutherans for Life – Canada Newsletter

Winter Edition 2007



From the President of Lutherans for Life – Canada:

Unwrapping gifts is a wonderful part of Christmas. The smallest children enjoy this activity, often more than the gift itself. As we grow older we begin to enjoy unwrapping gifts for more mature reasons. We enjoy the mystery being revealed as the wrapping comes off. We enjoy the pleasure the gift brings to us. We enjoy the happy look in the gift giver's face as we demonstrate our appreciation of the gift and/or of the thoughtfulness behind it.

God's greatest gift giving came on that first Christmas when our Saviour Jesus was born. Salvation was born to the world that night. The promise of forgiveness and the hope of eternal life came to the world in the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. God wrapped Himself in human flesh as His gift to all.

He put your name on the gift tag, personalizing that gift of His Son for you, when you were baptized. In the old advertising line: We received the gift that keeps on giving. We keep receiving daily forgiveness of our sins, renewal of our faith, strength to keep our eyes focussed on Jesus, and countless more spiritual blessings that fill our lives with reminders of God's presence and love.

Each Christmas, that unwrapping of gifts is over all too soon. The bows and wrapping paper are gathered up. The empty boxes are flattened for recycling. Instruction books are being read (well, sometimes anyway!). And the gifts are being put to use, each with their individual purpose.

God's gift giving never ceases. His mercies are new every morning. Each day, each experience is a new gift from God. How many gifts has He given you already this New Year? Some of those gifts we easily recognize. We readily tear into them, eager to reveal the mystery of what God has wrapped up for us. These might include the new relationship that began at the New Year's Eve party or the new grandchild that was born just after midnight. Maybe our dream job was just offered to us or your children surprised you with the trip to Europe that you have been putting off for longer than you can remember. As we unwrap these gifts we easily see God's hand in bringing them into our lives and rejoice with Him as we see the delightful multitude of possibilities as we put these gifts to use.

There are some that we are not so eager to unwrap. Perhaps we don't even recognize them as gifts from God. The winter storm that kept you from an important meeting – could it be a gift from God? Unwrap the gift and see the delight in God's eyes as you connect with your neighbours whom you haven't done more than wave at for years. What about the tax audit that you got notice of last week? Unwrap it to reveal the mystery of how works all things

together for good. The auditor, already impressed with your honesty in reporting all your income, notices your donations to Lutherans for Life – Canada (even though not tax deductible) and begins to share with you about her daughter’s post abortion trauma and her search for spiritual help for her. Take another look at the car accident that seems to have so many negative ramifications. Unwrapping it as a gift from God reveals how your marriage has grown stronger and how you and your spouse have grown so much closer as you’ve had to rely on each other so much more deeply.

There are many kinds of gifts, but God gives them all, and works all of them together in our lives for our good and for His glory. Take a look at the gift tag on each experience that comes your way. See – it says “To: you. From: God”. Unwrap each experience to reveal the mystery of how God will fit it perfectly into your life. Unwrap each experience and find pleasure in putting it to use in your service in God’s kingdom. Unwrap each experience and watch how God rejoices in your appreciation of His loving and thoughtful gift giving.

In Christ,

Rev. Ron Mohr

Who Me? An LMC? Definitely!



The Life Ministry – Coordinator (LMC) program envisions one or several individuals in a local congregation seeking opportunities to educate and motivate members of their own congregation for service as Christian witnesses and citizens on life and family issues. The LMC, along with the guidance of their pastor, elders, or other church leaders, decides how he/she will operate within the local congregation. However, some of the proposed goals for the Life Ministry Coordinator may include the following:

- learn as much as possible about the life issues that face us today such as abortion, euthanasia, post-abortion healing, stem cell research, cloning, chastity, etc.;
- educate others about life issues;
- plan Life Sunday activities or other projects to educate the local congregation about the sanctity of human life;
- provide timely pro-life information to the pastor, leadership, and membership of the congregation.

Each LMC will receive the magazine “*Life Date*” published by Lutherans for Life in the United States. It is great source of inspirational and learning resources. You will also receive from LFL-C a package of brochures on many topics as well as a DVD to get you started.

All LMC's must be a member of Lutherans for Life – Canada, which only requires a donation. If you are interested, or know someone, who may be interested in this important witness, contact:

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43 Chepstow Close
London, Ontario N6G 3S5
lwelke@rogers.com

May the Holy Spirit lead all of us to witness to the sanctity of human life at all stages.

“Safe Sex is Not the Answer!” – by Marian Obeda

I seldom read many of the columns in the *London Free Press*, but the following headline on Saturday, January 6th, caught my attention: “*Safe sex message not getting through*”. Ah, someone has finally caught on and the *London Free Press*, because of the author's credentials, is publishing it, so I had to read it. The author is W. Gifford-Jones, author of seven books and his column appears in 60 Canadian newspapers. He has a medical practice in Toronto.



Gifford-Jones starts out by saying that his morning mail included an envelope containing two condoms. He eventually learned that Toronto Public Health had initiated a communication campaign for doctors to alert young people to the dangers of sexually transmitted infections (STI), particularly Chlamydia. The package also contained informative posters about STI for examining rooms and an offer to doctors of a free supply of condoms for patients. Toronto Public Health hoped the poster would be a positive signal to young patients that the doctor is willing to discuss sexual topics.

He goes on to give some shocking statistics. Chlamydia strikes one in five women aged 15 to 25. Gonorrhea infects 28 per 100,000 people and AIDS one in 100,000 women. Chlamydia is a worldwide problem. A study in Boston revealed that two percent of that city's 15 to 19 year-olds have Chlamydia and six percent of Boston's “disadvantaged” girls were infected.

He states that those who have higher levels of education are not immune from acquiring STI. A study of college students showed that one in every one hundred are infected with Chlamydia. Eight out of ten women who were infected, and fifty percent of the men who had the infection, did not know it. Symptoms start within two to six weeks after exposure to an infected partner and can be severe. Women suffer more severe consequences such as permanent damage to the fallopian tubes and possible ultimate sterility.

The hope of the Toronto Public Health is to save some teenagers from this tragedy. They think more education campaigns are needed to convince men and women to practice safe sex.

Gifford-Jones feels that condoms are the first line of defense. He does say to both teenagers and others “*to practice love like porcupines, very, very carefully*”. He continues “*Consider that a recent Canadian study revealed 50 per cent of teenagers were involved in sex, and many not using condoms. And that 16 percent of university students were having anal sex. That’s like playing with dynamite as it’s a dangerous route for transmission of AIDS and other STI’s*”.

What Dr. Gifford-Jones does not seem to have done is tell his patients that the use of condoms are no guarantee against pregnancy, STI’s, STD.s or AIDs . About 15% of couples who rely on condoms to avoid pregnancy will still get pregnant within the first year of use. Statistics show that 2 to 4 percent of condoms leak, break, or slip off. These viruses and diseases can be acquired through sexual contact with someone who has them. Condoms may reduce the risk, but do NOT eliminate the risk. Condoms are even less effective at preventing genital herpes, trichomoniasis and chlamydia.

What Gifford-Jones should have told his patients is about the alternative to condoms for safe sex, and that is ABSTINENCE. The only safe choice (and the only God-pleasing choice) is to save sex for marriage. They then will be free to pursue their dreams without having to worry about “unwanted” pregnancies, STDs or any other virus or disease. They won’t have guilty memories or excess “baggage” to bring to their marriage; and their honeymoon will be an extra special evening for both of them. Studies also show that married people report more satisfaction with their sex life than unmarried couples.

Marian Obeda



Albertans! Take this Quiz!

(The rest of you can take it as well!)

1. Abortion is legal in Canada a) up to the first trimester b) up to the second trimester, or c) throughout pregnancy.
2. How many abortions were there in Alberta in 2003? a) 1,250; b) 5,433; or c) 10,577.
3. How many abortions in Alberta are repeat abortions? a) 15%; b) 33%; or 40%.
4. How much does an abortion cost the person getting the abortion? a) \$500.00; b) \$250.00; or c) Free.
5. How many abortions are done at private clinics in Alberta each year? a) 10%; 30%; or 50%.

(This quiz was administered at the Edmonton Circuit meeting by two representatives from The Back Porch website: http://www.alies.ca/pro_001.html . Answers to this quiz can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Can Lutherans for Life Make A Difference?

The following letter was sent to LFL (USA) after a young girl had read Grace Kern's Word of Hope column in one of the *LifeDate* issues.

"I just want to write and thank you for *LifeDate*. I read the article "A Teen's Desperate Call for Help" by Grace Kern.



"I happened to find the magazine at my friend's house. I was sitting there wondering what was going to happen to me and my life, when I picked up this magazine and opened right to the page, a story about a girl pregnant just like me. You see I am only 16. And I am also pregnant. I don't consider myself a bad girl. But I made a dumb mistake having sex with a guy I hardly knew. He forced me to have sex I really didn't want to do. After I found out I felt like I had no choice but to have an abortion. It was scheduled for the next morning.

"When I read the article I thought this whole story is about me. My school counselor told me I should get an abortion. It would be the best thing for me. After all a baby would ruin my life. I hated the guy so much I didn't even want to tell him.

"Well I stole the magazine. I stuck it in my book bag. I wanted the number of the woman Grace. [Word of Hope: 888-217-8679] I never thought I would get her. But the first time I called she answered the phone. She is really a nice lady. Her voice made me feel like everything was going to be O.K. She spent a long time with me on the phone and made me realize that I had other choices. She gave me a number to a pregnancy center a few blocks from where I lived. I never even knew it was there. She told me to call her back because she wanted to make sure everything went well there. I know she saved my baby's life. She said she would keep me and my baby in her prayers.

"I am trying to get other girl's in my school to call her. One of my friends already had an abortion and she isn't the same. I wish we had someone like Grace in our school.

"I just want to thank you for the magazine. I know God reached out to me. I am not going to hurt my baby. I cannot believe how close I came to doing something I would regret for the rest of my life. I am going to consider adoption. Thanks. (From *LifeDate*, Winter 2006, p. 3)

Yes, Lutherans for Life can make a difference in the lives of people ... both born and unborn! Get your copy of *LifeDate* and make it available to others! Order pamphlets on various subjects and leave them in high traffic areas. One never knows who might read it and who it might help!

NOTE: *LifeDate: a Quarterly journal of life issue news and commentary from National Lutherans for Life* is available on-line free of charge! You can read it on-line or have it sent to you. Check it out on: www.lutheransforlife.org.

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.

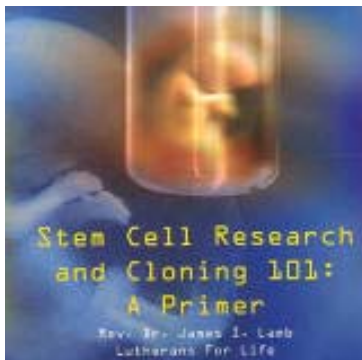
You can send your donation to: Mr. Cliff Pyle 207 230 Heath Ave. Saskatoon, SK S7S 1N7.

Life News from Around the World:



Stem Cell Research: According to the latest Newsletter from the London Area Right to Life a number of organizations are doing *embryonic* stem cell research. They are as follows: ALS Society of Canada, Alzheimer Society of Canada (ASC), Canadian Cancer Society, Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CCFF), Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (HSFC), Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, March of Dimes, Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, Muscular Dystrophy Association, National Cancer

Institute of Canada (NCIC), NeuroScience Canada, Parkinson Society of Canada, SickKids Foundation (Sick Children's Hospital - Toronto) and Terry Fox Fun (monies support NCIC). *(Ed: We certainly pray that remedies will be developed to help people cope with, even overcome these diseases, but does the end justify the means? Should embryos be destroyed in the name of research? There is certainly more ethical stem cell research being conducted with some amazing results! Read on!)*



Adult Stem Cells Used to Treat Emergency Heart Attack Patients: In research being carried out at University College London Hospital and Barts and the London NHS, patients suffering a heart attack will undergo regular treatment of an angioplasty to remove blockage to an artery. Following this procedure, the patient will receive an injection into the artery stem cells harvested from the bone marrow in their hip. The treatment

has shown remarkable success in growing heart tissue. Doctors hope the technique will lead to repairing damaged heart muscles and preventing further attacks and the development of heart failure. The experimental therapy is scheduled to begin trials in January in two London hospitals. There is less likelihood of rejection complications with adult and cord blood stem cells. -- by Gudrun Schultz. London, Uk, November 8, 2006, Reported by *LifeSiteNews.com*)

Adult Stem Cells Offer Hope for Diabetes Treatment: Adult stem cells may soon be used to treat human diabetes, after a study by U.S. researchers showed the cells increased insulin production in mice with Type 2 diabetes, and may have also aided in kidney repair. Researchers at the Tulane University in New Orleans injected human stem cells, taken from bone marrow samples obtained from adult donors, into diabetic mice with high blood sugar levels and kidney damage. The study was published online in the Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences. (*LifeSiteNews.com*. 11/13)

Liver Grown from Cord Blood Stem Cells - Media Ignores UK Breakthrough: A group of British scientists has achieved a major breakthrough in stem cell technology, growing the world's first artificial human liver in a laboratory, using stem cells obtained from umbilical cord blood. Newcastle University researchers Nico Forraz and Colin McGuckin, who have successfully grown 'mini-livers' capable of being used to test new drugs and, in future years, of providing life-saving treatment to patients in need of liver transplants. Researchers predict the science, with none of the ethical concerns associated with the use of embryonic stem cells, will be used to repair damaged livers within the next five years, and within 15 years whole artificial livers will be grown to be used in transplants. Embryonic stem cell research has had NO success in treating any disease or disorder despite massive funding support internationally. In contrast, the use of adult stem cells or of cells harvested from umbilical cord blood shortly after the birth of a baby have already been used successfully to treat multiple conditions, including spinal injury and blindness. *The absence of press coverage in the UL and Canada indicates just how strong the media bias is for stem cell research using human embryos.* (By Gudrun Schultz, Newcastle, UK, November 1, 2006, Reported by *LifeSiteNews.com*)

Fetal Pain
and
Abortion



Lutherans For Life

It's official! Newborns Able to Feel Pain: For years, the pro-life community has argued that unborn babies feel pain. The video, "*The Silent Scream*" shows an unborn child screaming as it is pierced by the surgical tool used to kill the unborn child. Now, the Karolinska Institute in Sweden has proposed, based on their research, that fetus', premature babies, and fully developed newborn babies have the cerebral cortical functions required to feel pain. However, the researchers also say that there is no conclusive evidence that they undergo a "*subjective painful experience.*" (Reported by *Yahoo! Canada News service*, 12/8/2006) (Ed: Are they serious? Oh, the strange conclusions, "objective" researchers will make in order to protect the abortion industry and to make people feel better about having an abortion! If "pricked do we not bleed?" If unborn babies have the cerebral

cortical functions required to feel pain, isn't it obvious/logical that they "subjectively" feel the pain of being "sliced and diced" by the abortionist knife?)

Stephane Dion Elected as Liberal Leader: Stephane Dion's election as leader of the Liberal Party in Canada is not good news for those who would like to restore the biblical definition of marriage, protect the life of unborn children, and curb the tide of embryonic stem cell research. Dion is in favour of homosexual "marriage" and supports the status quo of abortion on demand. Unfortunately, none of the other two leaders of the major political parties in Canada (Conservative and NDP) are any better on these issues!



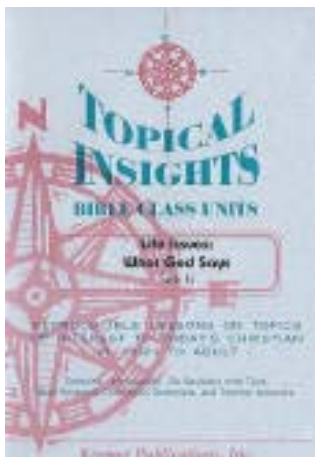
One Cruise You Don't Want to Take! The Dutch abortion ship of Rebecca Gomperts is headed for Argentina, where the media is calling it the "Ship of Death." Women on Waves ship *Borndiep* lends support for the legalization of abortion and dispenses the abortion drug RU-486, as well as birth control, in international waters outside the 12-mile limit for women from countries where such services are illegal. The ship has previously sailed to Ireland, Malta, Poland, and Portugal. (Reported in *The Interim*, Vol. XXIV, No. 11, January 2007, p. 2)

Answers to the Quiz:

1. C – throughout pregnancy.
2. C – 10,577
3. C – 40%
4. C – Free (for the woman. Abortions are paid for by the government at the expense of the taxpayers.
5. C – 50% (possibly up to 75%)

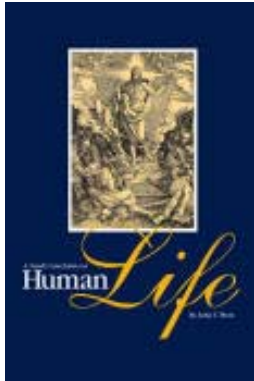


Looking for Bible Studies on Life Issues? Check out these Bible studies!



"Life Issues: What God Says." – Today's society is becoming more and more at odds with God when dealing with things as sacred as life itself. To many, life is a disposable commodity that can be done away with when it becomes unmanageable or an inconvenience. *"Life Issues: What God Says"* presents – in six sessions – to junior high and adults, useful information regarding many of the most pressing issues facing Christians today, along with a healthy dose of Scripture to let us know in no uncertain terms just where God is on each topic. The six sessions include: A Look at Motive: What and when is Human Life; Life Protection Before Birth; Improving the Species; Genetic Engineering, Cloning and Stem Cell Research; Care Near the End of Life; Making a

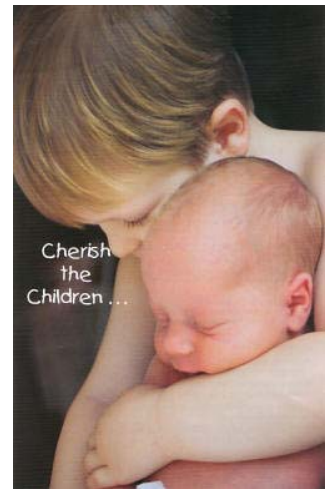
Difference. Each session includes ample text, discussion questions, Bible research, and a detailed teacher guide. The entire course comes on a CD-ROM in PDF format. This resource can be purchased from LFL-USA. The US price is: \$21.95.



A Small Catechism on Human Life examines abortion, bioethics, end-of-life, and sexual issues through the Biblical eye-glasses of Luther's Small Catechism. Thorough, but lay-friendly; each chapter is followed by thoughtful discussion questions and Bible references. It is perfect for any adult Bible study group (and there is a smaller, edited version for younger readers which is perfect for confirmation or youth Bible studies)! This resource can be purchased from LFL-USA. The US price is for the adult version is: \$14.99 (US) and 9.99 (US) for the Youth version.

Have A Life Sunday During 2007! Cherish the Children!

Numerous resources are available from Lutherans for Life (USA) at a nominal price. Check out and order these resources online at www.lutheransforlife.org. There are numerous sermons, Bible studies, bulletin inserts, children's messages, etc. available



25th National Lutherans for Life Conference in Omaha

In the Hand of God is the theme for the next Lutherans for Life (USA) conference. This inspiring weekend will be in Omaha, Nebraska, July 6-8, 2007. There will be many workshops for parents and teenagers. There will also be an *Answers in Genesis* workshop for younger children with stories and arts and crafts. There will also be servant events for the whole family. For more information on this conference go to: www.lutheransforlife.org.