

## Lutherans for Life – Canada Newsletter Fall Edition 2008



**From the President of Lutherans for Life – Canada:**

### A Summer of Great Strife!

The Canadian pro-life scene has been turbulent this summer. We at LFL-C have had an eventful past few months. It has been a time of highs and lows in the pro-life movement. LFL-C was fortunate in many ways as God's hand continues to guide our infant organization. We received our official Licensed Service Organization (LSO) status with Lutheran Church – Canada. This is a great step forward for our nascent group.

We are currently updating our bylaws and establishing a permanent Head Office address. These are needed to function within the laws of Canada and within our own church body.

As many may be aware, the Order of Canada has been awarded to Henry Morgentaler and this has caused quite a stir across our fair land. LFL-C is involved in this in various ways, one by signing a petition with the Canadian Family Action Coalition (CFAC) protesting the selection process. There were a total of 42 Canadian organizations signing this petition. It has caused quite a stir in many National papers including the National Post, the Toronto Star, and the Globe & Mail. If nothing else it is generating interest and debate in a subject that has been taboo for many years.

Another disappointment was the Harper government's decision to step away from a private member's bill, C-484 that would have made it a separate crime to take the life of a fetus against the will of the mother. The Bill, which was introduced by conservative Ken Epp, was opposed by pro-choice advocates who felt that by conferring legal status on a fetus would open the door to challenge abortion rights in Canada. Of course, as usual our politicians caved into this pressure. One can only hope and pray that one day our politicians will understand the implications of their actions.

We however are not discouraged, as we rely on our God who guides us every day. One only need turn to His Word to find strength and hope. *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."* (Isaiah 41:10) and also in 2 Timothy 1:7, *"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."*

Cliff Pyle  
President, Lutherans for Life - Canada

### **Annual General Meeting**

**When?** November 8, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Where?** Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Burlington, Ontario

**What?** Worship; a discussion of “Turning the Tide” and business.

**Cost?** \$10.00 registration

*Please preregister by sending confirmation of your attendance to:*

[msobeda@sympatico.ca](mailto:msobeda@sympatico.ca)

### **A WOMAN’S RIGHT TO CHOOSE**

Recently Morgantaler was nominated to receive the Order of Canada for his work to help the welfare of women. Several years ago University of Western Ontario, located in London, Ontario, honoured Morgantaler for giving women the “right to choose”. We ask the question “What is she choosing? Is she choosing what shoes or dress to buy? Is she choosing to have lunch with a friend or to buy steak or hamburger for dinner?” No, the question refers to the baby she is carrying. She is choosing to keep her baby or kill it. Let us examine some of these issues.

Some say it is not a baby but a blob of tissue. At the time of conception, it has been already been determined what colour of hair and eyes the baby will have and what sex the baby will be. All that is needed is time for the baby to grow. A person is a person right from the moment of conception.

Some say a woman has the right to choose about her own body. Yes, she does have the right over her own body. A woman can choose to have her ears or any other part of her body pierced. She can choose what she wants to do with her hair, finger nails, and so on. However, her body is only the dwelling place of a developing baby, not part of her body. A person has only one heart, one set of eyes, and so on. The baby she is carrying in her has its own heart, own eyes, and so on. The mother can be only female, but the baby she is carrying may be male or female.

Some say, “It is not convenient for me to have a baby now.” Does that mean that when it is not convenient to deal with an issue, it is all right to dispose of the issue? When it is not convenient to care for an elderly parent or an invalid, is it therefore all right to kill them too?

For those who say “I can’t afford another baby now”, does that mean that when a child becomes too expensive, it is all right to kill them? Teenagers, college and university students, beware, you may be becoming too much of a financial burden!

For those who say, “But this baby may be handicapped”, does that mean it is all right to dispose of those with a handicap? Those with hearing or sight problems, beware, you are in danger. We all have problems; they may be minor, but no one is perfect. If we were perfect, we would not need glasses, hearing aids, vitamin pills; we would get perfect marks in school and make no mistakes in the workplace or home.

Again we ask, what is the woman choosing? She is choosing to end the life of the baby she is carrying. Because of her choice, she is opening herself to all kinds of emotional, physical, and spiritual problems.

All of us need to confess our sin, receive and live in God's forgiveness and as we live in that forgiveness line up our values with God's Word. Psalm 139:13-15 says, "You created every part of me; you put me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because You are to be feared; all you do is strange and wonderful. I know it with all my heart. You saw my bones being formed, carefully put together in my mother's womb, when I was growing there in secret." We are God's creation and therefore God treats us with love and respect and in turn, we treat others, even the unborn, with a similar love and respect.

Marian Obeda

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS to Serve on the LFL-C Board**

Do you know someone who is qualified to serve on the LFL-C Board of Directors? If so, you are encouraged to nominate them, of course, with their permission. Deadline for nominations is October 25, 2008. Please include an e-mail or mailing address. Send all nominations to Marian Obeda, 458 Castlegrove Blvd., London ON., N6G 1K8 or E-Mail at: [msobeda@sympatico.ca](mailto:msobeda@sympatico.ca)

### **EDITOR NEEDED for the LFL-C Newsletter:**

Would you like to use your editorial skills to develop the LFL-C newsletter? The newsletter is produced quarterly. The position involves: sharing current pro-life news; highlighting congregational resources, editing articles provided by board members, etc. If interested, please contact Marian Obeda at: 458 Castlegrove Blvd., London ON., N6G 1K8 or E-Mail at: [msobeda@sympatico.ca](mailto:msobeda@sympatico.ca).

### **The Case Against Euthanasia: Is there One?**

You will want to read the thought-provoking article written by Margaret Somerville DCL, LL.D, who is the founding director of the Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law at McGill University. The article can be found at: <http://www.christianity.ca/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=5916&srcid=5916>.

### **National Disaster Hits Lethbridge, Alberta!**

Now that I have your attention, let me ask you a question? Would you consider it a national disaster if all the people who live in Lethbridge (population in May 2006 was 95,196) were killed by a man-made disaster or a natural disaster? I think you would.

Now, do you consider it a national disaster that at least, **96,815** abortions took place (according to Stats Canada) in Canada in 2005?! Is this not a *real* national tragedy? What are you doing about it?



## **Rev. Ron Mohr Interviewed on Issues, Etc.**

LFL-C Past-President Rev. Ron Mohr was interviewed on Issues, Etc. on July 31<sup>st</sup> regarding the state of abortion in Canada. Pastor Mohr also addressed the nomination of Henry Morgentaler to the Order of Canada. You can listen to the interview in its entirety by going to: <http://www.issuesetc.org/ondemand.html> and scrolling down to July 31, 2008. There are a number of other interviews relating to life issues that you can listen to on Issues, Etc. (For example listen to the interview on Stem Cell research from August 12, 2008 or August 25, 2008 and the interview with Serrin Foster of Feminists for Life.)

## **ARPA Canada and Over Forty Canadian Organizations File Formal Complaint about Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin**

Forty-two Canadian organizations (including Lutherans for Life – Canada) and their estimated one million plus members collectively filed a letter of complaint with the Canadian Judicial Council on Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 about federally appointed Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin for conduct that breaches the high standard of behaviour required to be a member of the judiciary. The complaint is based on six counts of violating the Constitution of the Order of Canada (an act of Parliament) and its regulations and one count of compromising the Supreme Court of Canada.

Brian Rushfeldt, Executive Director, Canada Family Action Coalition says “It is critical for Canadians to have trust in the conduct of judges, especially the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. By willfully breaching the Constitution of the Order of Canada and the judicial standards of conduct, Beverley McLachlin compromises the integrity of Canada’s judicial system. The behaviour of Beverley McLachlin outside the courtroom, clearly demonstrates bias along with improper conduct driven by political ideology or personal agenda.”

Charles McVety, President of the Institute for Canadian Values states “Such wanton disregard for established law and regulation is infecting the Judiciary to the point where the Chief Justice has decreed that judges must be lawmakers, corrupting the role of judges and undermining democracy.”

In order to preserve the integrity of Canada’s judicial system we respectfully ask that the Canadian Judicial Council consider this complaint seriously, investigate Beverley McLachlin’s inappropriate behaviour and recommend to Parliament that Ms. McLachlin be sanctioned or removed from office.

## Finding the Real Cure

*by Karen Frohwein, Director of Development of LFL (USA)*

*Source: LifeDate (A Publication of LFL), Summer 2008*

Last summer I had a conversation with some pro-life Lutherans regarding the work of Lutherans For Life. We talked about applying God's Word to the life issues. We talked about the resources LFL produces to help connect God's Word to issues like abortion, euthanasia, and embryonic stem cell research. We talked about the need to have pastors connect the Gospel to the life issues from the pulpit. Then the topic of funding came up and I was told, "We give to 'right to life' because that's where the real work gets done."

I have to admit I was pretty frustrated by that statement. I don't disagree with the work of other "right to life" groups or think they shouldn't be funded. Changing legislation and educating the public are certainly worthy efforts. Anyone who works in a caring pregnancy center can tell you the difference an ultrasound makes or the importance of parental notification laws.

Don't we all want to see a cure for the ills of society? Isn't finding the cure where the real work is being done—and where we should focus our energies and our funds?

Finding a cure took on a whole new meaning for me in the last few months, as I was diagnosed with breast cancer in February. I became a member of this "pink ribbon" club. Everywhere I turn I am inundated by efforts to raise research funds to find a cure for cancer. Certainly a worthy effort—but is that where the real work gets done?

What if man never finds a cure for cancer—or abortion is never made illegal? Getting through today as a cancer patient—or a post-abortive woman or a pregnant teen—it is sometimes hard to think about the future. If we look at our own situation right now, where is our hope?

Don't despair! The real work has been done! The real cure for life's problems has already been found! The "real work" to save lives and change hearts was done by our Savior on the cross. The Gospel applies to each of our lives right where we are today!

I'm reminded of Jesus talking to the disciples on a road to Emmaus. They, too, were looking for answers—for cures—now that Jesus had died on the cross. They thought He was the One, but now it was back to waiting for the Savior to come.

All that time and effort—in human terms, was it worth it? Should they have been putting their energies into finding a man-made cure for the world's problems? Would they go back to their "real work" now?

Do you remember what Jesus said to them? **"How foolish you are! You are so slow to believe everything the prophets said!"** (Luke 24:25 *GOD'S WORD for Life*) How foolish we are when we see the need for the life-saving message of the Gospel but believe the real work is happening somewhere else!

I really don't like having cancer. The world would have me ask why. Why me? Right now the doctors believe they have removed all the cancer from my body, but it might come back. Maybe there will be a cure by then! Perhaps if I buy several pink ribbons and participate in some cancer walks, I will be cured! Is it wrong to do these things? Perhaps not, if you research where your funds are going before you donate. But is that where I should put my focus?

As a Christian, the real question is "why not me?" I'm no different than anyone else—I deserve hardship as much as any sinful being. But, is there a cure?

As a baptized child of God, I know that I have already been cured by Christ, regardless of what happens to my physical body. I receive healing through Word and Sacrament regularly. I cling to those gifts and as I look around me, I see many people struggling who need that cure. There is "real work" to be done in proclaiming the For Life message of the Gospel!

Having cancer, or an unplanned pregnancy, or a debilitating illness isn't God's work. God's work gives us real hope in times of real crisis. God comes to us with the cure because of Jesus' real work on the cross. Yes, there are many pro-life organizations doing good work in the world. If their work is God-pleasing, there is nothing wrong with supporting them. But prayerfully consider the real work of Lutherans For Life when you decide where to invest your gifts.

Consider these words of Jesus to His disciples that first Easter:

**"Scripture says that the Messiah would suffer and that he would come back to life on the third day. Scripture also says that by the authority of Jesus people would be told to turn to God and change the way they think and act so that their sins will be forgiven"** (Luke 24:46-47a GOD'S WORD for Life).

Scripture tells us of the Real Work—for the real Cure. **"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus"** (Hebrews 12:1b-2a).



### **Life News from Around the World:**

**A Human-Animal Hybrid Embryo:** Some embryonic researchers continue to ignore ethical and moral standards. It was reported on the Yahoo! News service (April 4, 2008) that researchers at Newcastle University had created human-animal hybrid embryos. Supporters of such research argue that the creation of hybrid embryos might help millions of people recover from illness and disease. Critics, such as Cardinal Keith O'Brien, counters by saying such experimentation is a "monstrous attack on human rights, human dignity, and human life ... experiments of Frankenstein proportion."

**The Order of Canada is Disgraced:** It was a dark day on July 1 when it was announced that Henry Morgentaler was being named a member of the Order of Canada. Morgentaler was cited "For his commitment to increased health care options for women ...". One wonders what health care options, Morgentaler makes available for the unborn females who he has fought to have killed through abortion? Thankfully, millions of Canada's objected to his nomination. In fact, most polls showed that the majority of Canadians opposed Morgentaler receiving the Order of Canada. You are encouraged to let the Prime Minister, your local MP, and the Governor General know of your own disapproval.

**A Commissioner of Gender Equality:** How would you like your tax dollars to be used to fund such a position? Liberal leader, Stephane Dion, promises to establish such a position *if* elected. (Source: The Interim, August 2008, p. 2)

**Canadian Tax Payers Fund Abortions in Canada and Around the World:** According to *The Tax Payer*, a publication of the Canadian Taxpayer's Federation, Canadians fund abortions in at least three ways: 1. Almost all abortions performed in Canada are paid for by taxpayers. 2. Taxpayers also pay Employment Insurance (EI) for women who choose to have abortions. When a pregnancy is terminated within the first 19 weeks it is considered an illness and benefits can be collected. If an abortion occurs in the 20<sup>th</sup> week or later benefits are paid out under the EI maternity program despite there being no mother or child. Illness and maternity benefits are paid for up to three-and-a-half months. 3. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), paid for by taxpayers, will provide \$18 million over four years to the International Planned Parenthood Federation which is the world's largest abortion provider. Who says, "*Abortion is a private matter?*" (Source: *The Rose*, March 2008, p. 8)

**The Spread of STDs Reaching Epidemic Proportions in North America!** The U.S. Centres for Disease Control reported that more than one-in-four U.S. teen girls is infected with at least one sexually transmitted disease. For women such diseases can have serious long-term impact, including cervical cancer and damage to reproductive organs. If you think the spread of STDs is only a problem in the U.S. think again! The Calgary Health Region show Chlamydia cases increased 38.25% from 2005 to 2006; gonorrhea leapt 61% in that same time frame, and syphilis nearly doubled from 2006 to 2007. (Source: Calgary Sun, March 16, 2008, p. 35) Condoms will not prevent the spread of STDs. For one thing, studies reveal that Canadian teens don't use condoms when having sexual intercourse and secondly, condoms (even when used) do not prevent the spread of certain kinds of STDs. The answer? Abstinence! Sexual intercourse reserved for marriage – one man ... one woman – a lifelong commitment!

**Failed Abortion Ends with a Stabbed Baby:** Campaign Life Coalition National News (August 2008) reported that a 35-week-gestation baby who survived an abortion was killed by an abortionist who stabbed a utensil into the child's rib cage and twisted it until the baby stopped moving. This killing took place at the Tiller's Women's Health Care Services in Wichita, Kansas.

**Ten percent more reported cases of euthanasia in 2007 in the Netherlands:** In 2007 the Regional Euthanasia Review Committees received 2,120 euthanasia reports, which is up from 1,923 reported cases in 2006. Euthanasia as defined in the Netherlands only includes voluntary actions that are requested by a person who is competent. Any intentional action that causes the death of a person who is incompetent or involuntary is not counted as acts of euthanasia but rather deaths without explicit request. The report that is published in the Magazine of the Right to Die - NL (NVVE) does not include the number of assisted suicide deaths or the number of deaths without explicit request. It was reported that there were approximately 550 deaths without request in 2005 and approximately 400 assisted suicide deaths. (Source: Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, <http://alexschadenberg.blogspot.com/2008/08/10-percent-more-cases-of-euthanasia.html>, August 26, 2008)

**In England: Attempts to cut the upper limit for abortions from 24 to 22 weeks have been rejected by MPs after a free vote.** Tory MP Nadine Dorries, a former nurse who proposed a 20-week limit, said: *"There comes a point when it has to be said this baby has a right to life."* But her plan was defeated by 332 votes to 190. A move to bring in a 22-week limit was opposed by 304 votes to 233. Pro-choice campaigners said there was no scientific evidence to justify a cut in the limit. Government figures showed 193,737 women in England and Wales had an abortion in 2006. (Reported by the BBC, 5/20/2008)

### **LifeChain – October 5<sup>th</sup>!**

LifeChain is the annual prolife witness that takes place across North America. Pro-Lifer's from coast to coast stand with signs that remind the public that abortion takes the lives of unborn children, that it harms women, and that there are alternatives to abortion. Plan to take part on October 5<sup>th</sup> this year, for one hour from 2-3 p.m. in most locations. For more information call 1-800-730-5358 or visit <http://www.lifechain.net/> or talk to your Pastor.



## Priests for Life Launch YouTube Videos

“Is This What You Mean?” educates people about the realities of abortion. In a clinical manner, two videos educate people about the realities of abortion focusing on a 10 week and 18 week abortion. A fetal model and the actual instruments used by abortionists are used as the abortion procedures are described. This is not a graphic or gory video. Go to: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=us\\_y9GP\\_-DA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=us_y9GP_-DA) (Dilation and Evacuation procedure) and [www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBOAPleF1t0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBOAPleF1t0) (Suction Curettage procedure).

## 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. Richard Juritsch, 1 Jefferson Drive, St. Catharines, ON L2N 3T8.

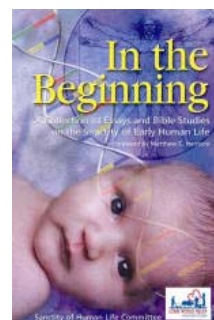
Visit LFL-C’s website: [www.lutheransforlife-canada.ca](http://www.lutheransforlife-canada.ca).

## Some Resources Available from Lutherans for Life (USA):

(Order online at: [http://www.lutheransforlife.org/what's\\_new.htm](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/what's_new.htm).)

**Stem Cell Research and Cloning 101: A Primer** is hosted by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb. He says, "I want to make it clear from the beginning that this presentation is not going to be complicated and hard to understand. I will be presenting the basics of stem cell research and cloning. There are two reasons for that. First, I am not a scientist or an expert in these areas so I cannot make it complicated! Second, all we need to know are the basics. Once we understand the basic biology involved, we will be able to apply God’s Word to these technologies—and God’s Word is where we want to begin." (37 minutes) FREE!

**In the Beginning – A Collection of Essays and Bible Studies on the Sanctity of Early Human Life** is an eight-session Bible study using essays from Lutheran writers, theologians, and medical experts on topics such as when human life begins and the ethics of stem cell research.





Following each essay is a related Bible study written by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life. Essay topics include:

- Creation: Made in God's Image
- Justification: Life Through His Word
- Incarnation: Being Like Us in Every Way
- Conception: A Medical Analysis of Early Life
- Science: The Truth and Hype about Stem Cells
- Defining Terms: The Importance of Vocabulary in Pursuing Ethics
- Vocation: Serving God by Serving our Neighbor
- God's Two Kingdoms: Honoring Life's Value in Our World

\$7.99 each or Note: A downloadable/reproducible version is also available directly from Concordia Publishing House for \$30.00.



**Second Thoughts about Living Together** – “Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.” (Hebrews 13:4 ESV)

If there is one thing that all parish pastors have in common that proves time and again to be a persistent and vexing problem, it is the challenge of couples who present themselves for marriage but who are already living together.

In response to frequent requests for a concise, faithfully Biblical resource to help couples reflect on the issues raised by living together, and to help pastors minister in such situations, the resource entitled *Second Thoughts About Living Together* has been prepared by Concordia Publishing House.

This booklet is in a Question and Answer format. Some of the questions include:

- What is Marriage?
- Who regulates marriage: Church or State?
- What is the purpose of marriage?
- What's so important about a piece of paper?
- What about so-called Common Law marriages?
- Is living together such a great offense?

\$1.75 each

**Promise Cards** – A pledge to “save sex” for the faithful commitment of marriage. God's promises are featured on the front with pledge of commitment and prayer on the back. Credit card size. (10 cents each)

