

Lutherans for Life – Canada Newsletter

Spring/Summer Edition 2009



From the President of Lutherans for Life – Canada:

The Bailout

Recent world events have been a great cause for concern and consternation. Economic situations are bleak throughout the world. The United States has been hard hit by this economic slowdown. President Obama has even hinted at the collapse of capitalism as we now know it. Major corporations are asking for handouts or bailouts in order to survive. The national debt of both Canada and the United States is rising dramatically.

The collapse of formerly sound institutions, general lack of confidence in our leaders, and unemployment, has increased fears among a large majority of the populace.

One can certainly understand the anxieties and fears that people are experiencing right now. We do not know where to turn, or who to even trust in this age of deception and dishonesty. Our present conundrum leads us to seek a “bailout”. We put our hopes in government handouts, or institutions run by mankind. Will they be able to restore our former way of life? Who will resolve this dilemma?

There is hope amidst all this tribulation, and it is in the form of a “bailout”, the greatest bailout of all time. This occurred 2,000 years ago when God sent His Son to the cross to redeem and ransom the human race. God paid a great price, so that we would have the abundant life. There were no strings attached, only His generous gift of Life for all.

This offer is open to anyone, even those who have been affected by the sin of abortion. God offers this “bailout” free of charge. Many people have been hurt by abortion, not just those who have had an abortion. Statistics show that for every abortion committed, there are as many as 17 other people affected. Research verifies that women & men do not forget this traumatic event, even in old age. Guilt, shame, and other feelings of unworthiness haunt them for the rest of their lives.

Lutherans for Life offer resources that give hope in a merciful God ... a God who does not condemn, but offers the gift of His son. The sin of abortion is certainly not unforgivable. *“God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world.”* (John. 3:17)

We, LFL-C, stand **FOR LIFE**, for all those suffering the ill-effects of a bad decision, we present the message of hope, healing, and forgiveness through the matchless “bailout” offered by a merciful God and Father. (See Jeremiah 29:11)

Cliff Pyle
President Lutherans for Life – Canada

ON THE WINNING SIDE

As a prolife supporter, sometimes the decisions of politicians and views of the secular media are disheartening. Sometimes it appears as if we are not bringing forth the changes that protect life and recognize that life is a valuable gift from God from conception to a natural death.

When we get feeling that way it is important for us to remember the resurrection of our Lord.

One day Michelangelo, the great 16th century artist turned to a group of fellow artists and said with disappointment in his voice, "Why do you keep on filling gallery after gallery with endless pictures of the one theme of Christ on the cross, and most of all of Christ hanging dead? Why do you concentrate on the passing episode as if the curtain dropped down there on disaster and defeat? That dreadful scene lasted only a few hours. But to the end of eternity Christ is alive; Christ rules and reigns and triumphs!"

It is necessary to spend time at the cross to recognize that our Saviour was willing to die for our salvation. That he willingly took upon himself the sins of our selfish and careless society. However, we need to move beyond the cross and tomb.

Easter is triumphant message from God that sin death and the devil have been defeated. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we have the encouraging assurance to the end of eternity Christ is alive, Christ rules and reigns and triumphs.

Next time you feel discouraged by the intensity of the prolife battle, keep in mind you are on the winning side. You are connected to the Lord of life who reigns forever.

May the living Lord bless your work!

Pastor Stephen Alles,
St. John's Lutheran Church, Pembroke

Upcoming Events

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE – CANADA: AGM, May 9th, 9:30 A.M. Redeemer Lutheran Church, Waterloo ON. Dr. James Lamb is the presenter; Theme **STEM CELLS – PERIL OR PROMISE**. Registration is \$10.00, contact Marian Obeda: 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 info@lutheransforlife-canada.ca

March for Life – Ottawa, ON. May 14th, 2009. See for more information; <http://www.campaignlifecoalition.com/march2009/index.html> Please consider participating. See also LCMS Lutherans join March for Life in Washington D.C. January 22/09 <http://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=14677> See prayer offered by : President Gerald B. Kieschnick; <http://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=14682>

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE – UNITED STATES CONFERENCE:

Lutherans For Life National Conference *Celebrating the Abundant Life*

July 24-25, 2009

**Doubletree Westport,
St. Louis, Missouri**

**Keynote speaker:
Bobby Schindler,
brother of
Terri Schindler Schiavo**

Great speakers, workshops and life affirming fellowship!

The two-day conference begins at 3:00, Friday, July 24, with a pre-conference leader's workshop led by Dr. Lamb. The workshop will focus on **Renewal For Life** and will provide opportunities to show how LFL leaders can work together as a team to advance this new initiative.

A musical program for the whole family with Angela Naeve will then kick off the celebration, followed by a worship service with Dr. Jim Lamb presiding. Bobby Schindler, brother of Terri Schiavo, is the keynote speaker and will address the conference after the Friday evening banquet.

Saturday's workshop speakers include Linda Bartlett, Rev. John Eidsmoe, Charles Ford, Renee Gibbs, Dr. Peter Greenspan, Angela Naeve, Rev. Russell Saltzman, Rev. Don Wagner, and Dr. Jim Lamb. Topics will focus on following the shepherd as we ***Celebrate the Abundant Life*** at the beginning of life, at the end of life, and in the trials of life based on the words of Jesus in John 10:10: **"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."**

WEBSITE:

http://www.lutheransforlife.org/Conference/2009_Conference/2009_Conference_main.htm

NATIONAL PRO-LIFE CONFERENCE – SASKATOON

Hilton Garden INN October 29th – 31st

Confirmed speakers to date: Dr. James Lamb – Executive Director LFL; Ezra Levant; Andrea Mrozek, co-founder of pro-woman/pro-life; Dr. Larry Reynolds; Panel of University students, including U of Calgary; Rod Bruinooge, parliamentary chair of the pro-life caucus; John Henry Weston, editor of Lifesite News, plus others to be announced.

Plan now to attend: For more info contact Nicole or Cliff Pyle at: cliffnick@sasktel.net

News and Updates!

Public attitudes about abortion shifting (Source: Alberta ProLife E-Update, Monday, April 20, 2009)

It's easy for pro-Lifers to become discouraged by thinking they are not changing things. This quite simply is not true. Remember how abortion advocates quoted a 1972 poll when 70 percent of the population apparently supported a woman's "right to choose" abortion? Well, to quote an old Bob Dylan song, "things they are a changin"! A 2009 US poll by the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion revealed that 84 percent of Americans feel there should be significant restrictions on abortions, even among people who identified themselves as pro-choice. Three-fifths of those respondents who were "pro-choice" believed abortion should only be available in the first three months and only in cases of rape or incest. Only 8 percent thought there should be no restrictions for abortion on demand. That's a spectacular turn-around in public attitudes! Over 70 percent of people polled said they would support a candidate in state or federal elections who maintains life begins at conception.

In Canada , a 2007 Environics opinion poll commissioned by Life Canada revealed that over 60 percent of Canadians think abortion should have restrictions.

See – <http://www.wnd.com/index.php?pageID=77980>
<http://www.lifecanada.org/html/resources/polling/2007PollReport.pdf>

Euthanasia may threaten us all! (Source: Alberta Pro-Life E-Update, March 31, 2009)

An interesting commentary about the creeping threat of euthanasia appeared in the 30 March 2009 edition of the Montreal Gazette. The article by Hugh Anderson is entitled "The push for euthanasia could be the death of us all: How far do we want laws to go on 'death with dignity' and assisted suicide?" can be read

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/push+euthanasia+could+death/1443039/story.html>

Pray for Our Pro-Life Doctors!

Despite backing off a strongly worded policy on faith and the Human Rights Code, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario drafted a revised policy that still compromises doctors' freedoms to refuse to perform procedures like abortion and reproductive treatments when it goes against their religious beliefs. For an update on this issue, visit:

<http://www.christianweek.org/stories.php?id=214>.

Dr. John Patrick and Rev. Don Schiemann's Plenary Sessions are available for viewing on-line. A Life conference, organized and sponsored by Lutherans for Life – Canada, Concordia Lutheran Seminary (Edmonton), and Concordia University College of Alberta, featured Dr. John Patrick and Rev. Don Schiemann. Their presentations are available on-line at:

<http://www.lccabc.ca/video>. Alberta-British Columbia District President, Rev. Don Schiemann, discussed, "Respect for Life and Criminal Justice. Dr. John Patrick, MD, discussed, "The Domino Effect of Legalizing Abortion" and "What Hippocrates Knew and We Have Forgotten." Please direct other people to these informative presentations.